WORLD / A22

Luciano Pavarotti, a great tenor, recovers after surgery for pancreatic cancer.

LATE SPORTS

Amelie Mauresmo of France beats Justine Henin-Hardenne of Belgium, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4, wins Wimbledon women's title

JOB Market

PDI partners with GMA 7 to stage season's biggest job fair with 100 firms

No Alps, just 200 brides in RP's 'Swiss village'

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BOLINAO, PANGASINAN—SOMEWHERE IN this western Pangasinan town a Swiss village rises.

But don't look for Swiss watches, Swiss chocolates or even snow-capped Alpine peaks. For 20 years now, the women from the sub-vil-

NO ALPS/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Sunday, July 9, 2006 ★★★ 10 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 211 P18 website: www.inq7.net

The other Danny Lim: Wish I had his waistline

By Chito A. Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—IF not for a conflict in schedule, "Danny Lim" would have shaken hands with President Macapagal-Arroyo in

AKO ANG JUMBO VERSION!

THE OTHER/ A4

Scout Rangers watched

GMA WAS HERE. The majestic sprawl of the new city hall of Cotabato City which is bigger than Malacañang, was the site of the joint Cabinet and Regional Development Council meeting on Saturday presided over by President Arroyo (below).

EDWIN BACASMAS

3 colonels also arrested, investigated, says military

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

THE CAPTURE OF THE SIX "Magdalo" officers may have derailed the plans of Army rebels seeking to destabilize the government but the military is not keeping its guard down.

More than 200 Scout Rangers formerly under sacked Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim are "being monitored" although no counter-force has been deployed around their base at Camp Tecson in Bulacan, Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino said yesterday.

"I see no need to send restraining forces because we have 'cleansed' the officers there [at Tecson]," the chief of the Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom) told the INQUIRER.

"They are just being monitored," Tolentino said in Arayat town in Pampanga during tree planting activities organized by the Save Mt. Arayat Movement.

Tolentino also said that besides Lim—who is now restricted to his quarters in Fort Bonifacio—three colonels of the Army's 24th Infantry Battalion were being investigated in connection with the failed Feb. 24 coup plot.

"In the 7th Division, three company commanders of the 24th IB have been arrested and are being investigated," he said, adding he remembered one of them as being named "Reyes."

Tolentino said he was confident that the release of a video tape showing Lim withdrawing his support of President Macapagal-Arroyo would not rekindle

SCOUT/ A4

Rebels attack GMA security detail

By Dennis Jay Santos
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—SUSPECTED COMMUNIST rebels fired on a truckload of soldiers returning to their camp after securing President Macapagal-Arroyo's visit to Compostela Valley yesterday, authorities said.

No one was hurt, and the rebels fled before the soldiers could fire back, said Col. Antonio Amodia, commander of the Army's 404th Infantry Brigade based in the province.

A Malacañang source confirmed that 20 soldiers riding in a truck were ambushed after the President's visit.

The source, who requested anonymity for lack of authority to speak on the matter, said that the ambush occurred three towns away from where Ms Arroyo made her appearance, and that the dump truck was part of the reinforcements for her visit.

The ambush site was not part of the route of Ms Arroyo's convoy on the

REBELS/ A4

WHAT'S INSIDE

At 72, Gloria Romero is the leading lady of 85 year-old Eddie Garcia in "I Wanna Be Happy." Which is not saying the glory days of the veteran actress are over. **SIM**

Job envy: Fil-Am Maricel Pagulayan as visual effects expert on "Superman" scanned Brandon Routh's entire bod "to create him digitally."

ENTERTAINMENT A3-1

Domestic helper is an award-winning poet, performs with Taiwan's best percussionists.

GLOBAL PINOY / A19

Sea Princess as royal pirate on the high seas is swimming in superlatives.

LIFESTYLE / C2

Palace: Hyatt 10 still 10? Dinky: More than 10

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

IS THE SO-CALLED "HYATT 10" STILL 10-STRONG?

This was Malacañang's retort yesterday to the 10 Cabinet secretaries and government executives who continue to question the legitimacy of President Macapagal-Arroyo a year after announcing their collective resignation at the Hyatt hotel, citing loss of confidence in her ability to lead the country.

"The Hyatt 10 continues to vilify the President and make pompous claims of what it can do to challenge the administration without even identifying [its members]," Gabriel Claudio, Ms Arroyo's adviser on political affairs, said in reference to the group's one-page advertisement titled "We Can Do It Again" and run in yesterday's issue of the INQUIRER.

The advertisement carried a heading at the end that read "Holding You Accountable To The Nat10n," but not the names of the members of the group.

"We dare the Hyatt 10 to tell the public if there are, in fact, still 10 of them, and who they are," Claudio said.

Reached on the phone for comment, former Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman said the Hyatt 10 was not only "intact" but also "more than 10 already."

She cited Nini Quezon-Avanceña, National Artist Bienvenido Lumbera, Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez and the "more than 200" other persons who had filed or signed impeachment complaints against Ms Arroyo.

The other members of Hyatt 10, who all quit their posts exactly a year ago yesterday, are ex-Finance

PALACE/ A8

France, a fairy tale; Italy, destiny

BERLIN—NO ITALIAN OPPONENT HAS scored in this World Cup. France has allowed two goals overall.

Even with all the offensive flair on both sides, defense will decide the title Sunday (Monday morning in Manila).

The Azzurri have been so impenetrable in six matches that only Cristian Zaccardo got the ball past goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon. Zaccardo plays defense for Italy.

Germany probed and pressed throughout its semifinal and went 120 minutes without ever finding the net. Indeed, the Germans had only a handful of dangerous opportunities with one of the most powerful offenses in the tournament.

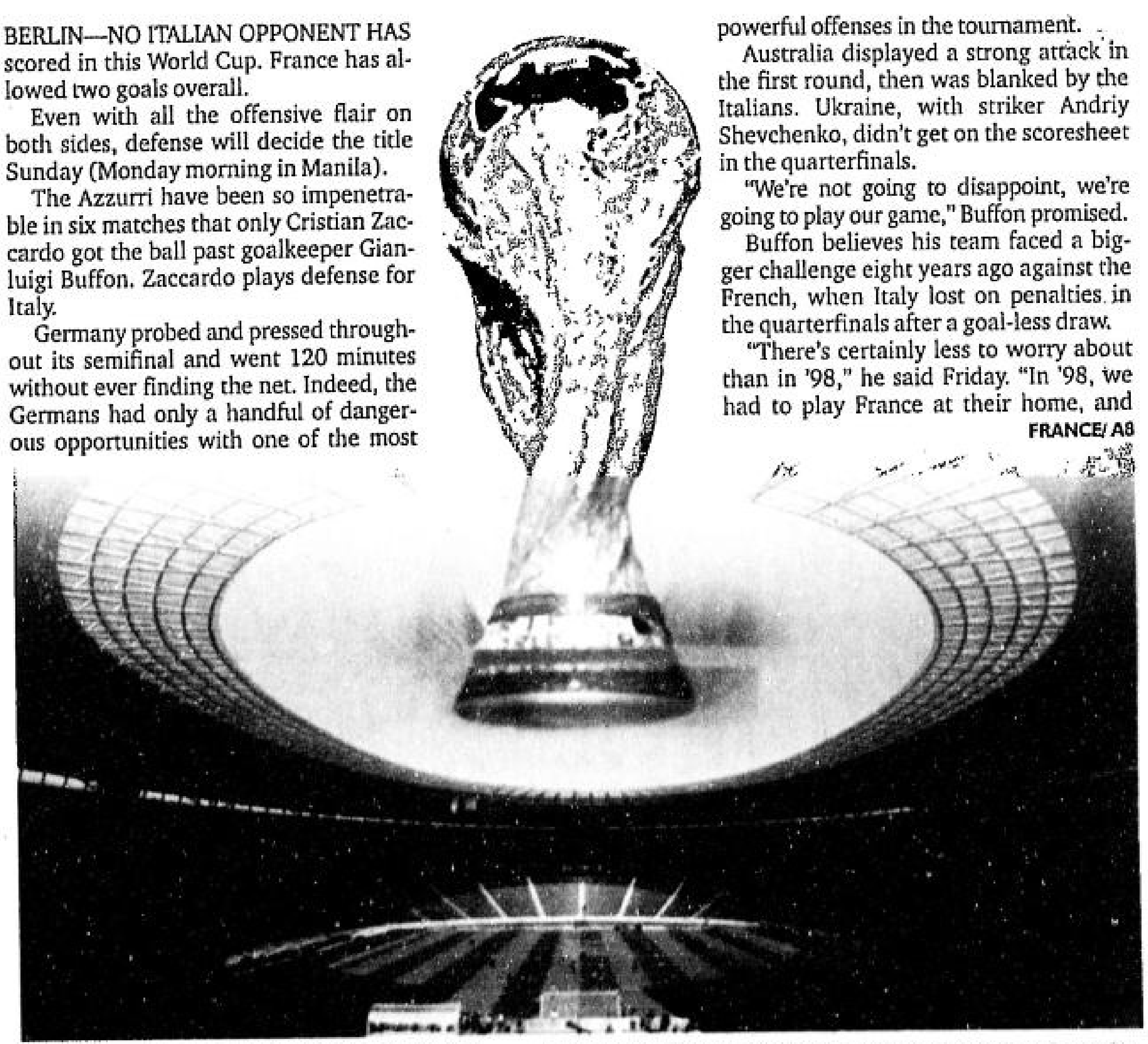
Australia displayed a strong attack in the first round, then was blanked by the Italians. Ukraine, with striker Andriy Shevchenko, didn't get on the scoresheet in the quarterfinals.

"We're not going to disappoint, we're going to play our game," Buffon promised.

Buffon believes his team faced a bigger challenge eight years ago against the French, when Italy lost on penalties in the quarterfinals after a goal-less draw.

"There's certainly less to worry about than in '98," he said Friday. "In '98, we had to play France at their home, and

FRANCE/ A8



THE WORLD'S MOST COVETED TROPHY is superimposed on the historic Berlin Olympic Stadium where the final game between France and Italy will be played on Sunday (Monday morning Manila time). AFP

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Batanes and Calayan group of islands will experience rains and gusty winds. The rest of Luzon and Western Visayas will have occasional monsoon rains becoming frequent rains over Western Luzon which may trigger flashfloods and landslides.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/07/09/06

Metro Manila	Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Bishops meet to tackle key issues

By Jerome Aning

THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE OF THE Philippines yesterday began its two-day plenary assembly, with political factions and observers anticipating a major policy statement that could impact on the Arroyo administration.

More than 100 bishops gathered at the Pope Pius XII Center in Paco, Manila, for the assembly, which convenes in regular session twice a year—in January and July.

The bishops are expected to touch on burning issues such as the fresh impeachment drive against President Macapagal-Arroyo, the murders of journalists and cause-oriented activists, and Charter change.

Other issues expected to be discussed are the alleged cheating in the 2004 presidential election, graft and corruption, military unrest, the government's sex education drive, and state-sponsored gambling.

But Malacañang is confident that the bishops would keep out of politics.

"We have high respect for the CBCP and the individual bishops," Michael Defensor, Ms Arroyo's chief of staff, said at a press conference in Cotabato. "It is only natural to have differences in opinion in politics. But we believe that the main interest of the CBCP is to address the morality, uplift and spirituality of the people. The CBCP has already stated that the Church does not meddle in government and political affairs."

Influence

Dagupan-Lingayen Archbishop Oscar Cruz, a former CBCP president, said the organization would continue to exert its "influence" when speaking on ethical and moral issues affecting the country's sociopolitical life.

"The truth by force of reason and in the light of faith that brings about justice and promotes peace—this is the one and only source of the 'influence' of the CBCP, if any at all," he said.

An outspoken critic of the Arroyo administration, Cruz said that the CBCP was "still up and about only because it proclaims the truth about man founded on the truth about God," and that its influence came "precisely from the durable nature and staying power of truth."

No political agenda

Cruz said the CBCP had "strictly no political agenda."

"It bears no interest at all in having and exercising any public authority. It has not the least intention of acquiring even an iota of secular power," he said.

Truth, according to him, "steadfastly remains and ultimately prevails, neither knows no party nor respects any person, is not at all bothered by any and all contradictions, has all the time to wait, shows itself in the course of events," and "then sets people free."

"To serve people with truthfulness—not to fool people with deceit—is the CBCP's solemn commitment and standing mission," Cruz said.

'Personal option'

On Friday, Jaro Archbishop and CBCP president Angel Lagdameo was asked by reporters whether the issue of Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez's impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo might be raised at the assembly.

Lagdameo said he did not think so because the CBCP had already issued its stand on the matter.

The CBCP statement had said the organization respected Iñiguez's "personal option" and would "not go with the suggestion of Malacañang to sanction him."

Lagdameo said nonetheless that he was keeping his mind "open to whatever the bishops would recommend."

Iñiguez had said all he expected from his filing the complaint was a clear resolution to the issues surrounding the President's legitimacy.

'Deus Caritas Est'

Lagdameo earlier told reporters that administrative, ecclesiastical and theological matters affecting the Catholic Church in the Philippines would be discussed at the gathering.

One topic is the latest papal encyclical, "Deus Caritas Est," wherein Pope Benedict XVI delineates the Church's role in politics *vis a vis* the principle of the separation of Church and State.

Lagdameo said the principle should not be used as an argument against the participation of the Church in shaping the politics of a country.

"Concretely, this means that the bishops, clergy and laity must be involved in the area of politics when moral and Gospel values are at stake," he said, adding:

"The Pope says the Church wishes to help form consciences in political life and to stimulate greater insight into the authentic requirements of justice." *With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

MORE than 100 prelates began their two-day plenary assembly on Saturday.

RYAN LIM

SAVE PNU, SAVE PHILIPPINE EDUCATION

We, faculty, students, and staff of the Philippine Normal University call on academicians, educators, leaders, and the general public who are concerned about the state of Philippine education and teacher education in the country. On June 24, 2006 the PNU Board of Regents selected Atty. Lutgardo B. Barbo as the new university president over two more highly qualified candidates. The same decision was upheld on July 5, 2006 after we complained about irregularities we had discovered to have attended the search and selection process.

We call on all Filipinos to help us protect the century old PNU tradition of excellence in teacher education from the encroaching claws of politics. Let us maintain that integrity and scholarship take precedence over political patronage in the academe.

The declining quality of education in the country is readily blamed against our schools, if not against our teachers. While there may be few good reasons for this belief, fewer remedies are forthcoming from our government. On the contrary, Republic Act 8292, euphemistically called the Higher Education Modernization Act (HEMA) has turned the academe into a huge playing field for politicians.

The PNU BOR's decision clearly indicates how politics is destroying the core values of education in our country. We therefore call the support of everyone in our cause to defend the future of our children who, despite the imperfections that are imposed on our schools, continue to believe in what PNU must now fight for!

We shall be unceasing and unwavering in this struggle.

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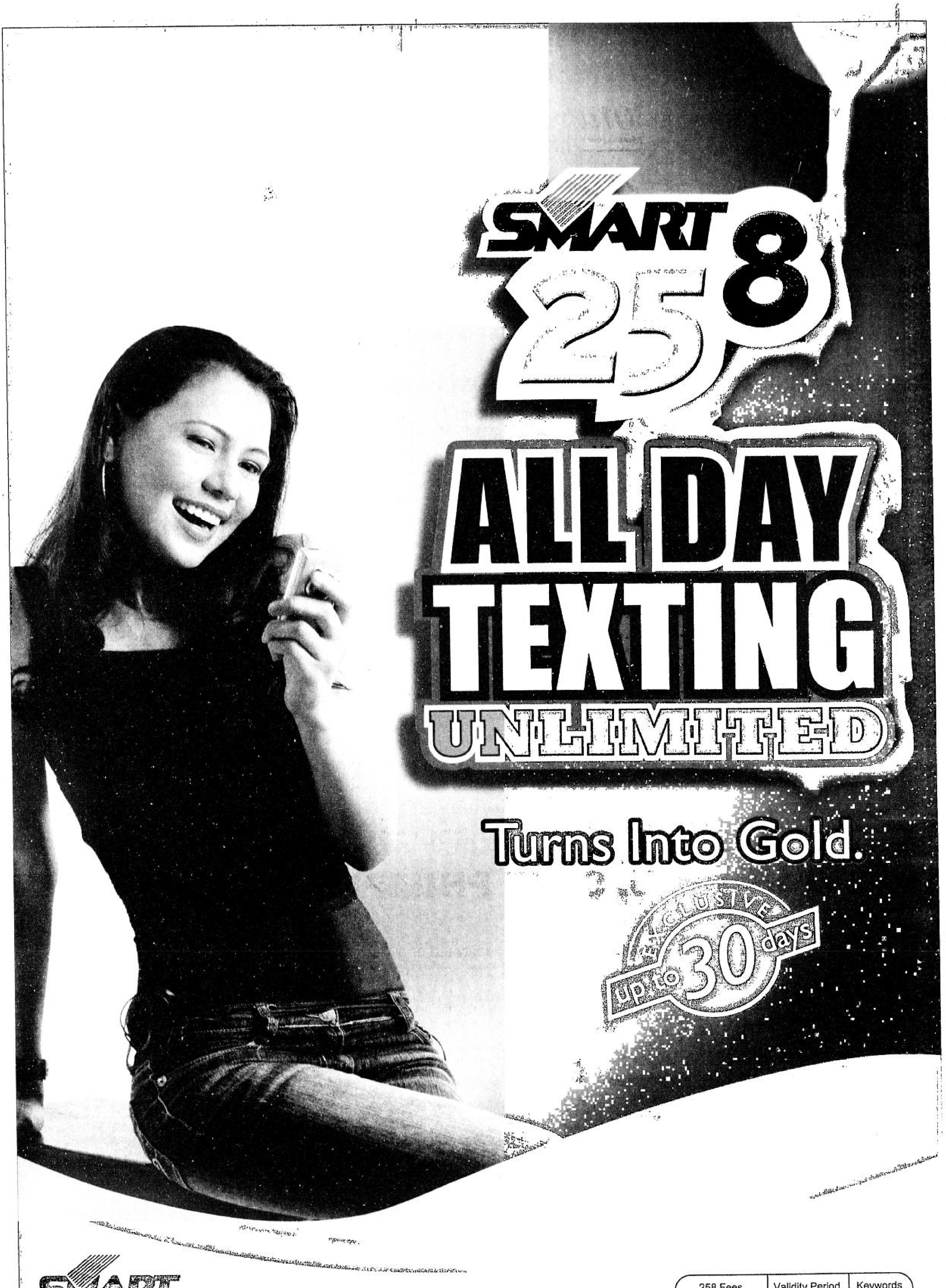

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THE SWISS MEN THEY MARRIED: Gloria Reimann and her cousin Nieves from Bolinao, Pangasinan feel right at home in the land of their husbands. Back home a veritable Swiss village rises for the families they left behind.

EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

No Alps, just 200 brides in RP's 'Swiss village'

From page A1

lage of Lipong, Barangay Luciente 2 (population: 2,922) have been marrying men from Switzerland.

"There are about 200 women from Lipong married to Swiss men and they are now living in [Switzerland]," said Jimmy Cariño, a village councilman.

Cariño said the Switzerland-Bolinao "love affair" started in the '90s when the owner of a beach resort in town and a travel agency in Manila, brought a Swiss gentleman who was looking for a bride.

The resort owner advised the Swiss to see a certain woman in the village.

The woman, a rice vendor in the public market, and the Swiss fell in love. They got married and went to live in Switzerland.

There, the woman met two other Swiss gentlemen who were also looking for brides. She paired them off with her two unmarried sisters. Thus began the series of marriages between Swiss men and Luciente women, Cariño explained.

The woman, who used to sell rice, started a sort of mail-order bride service in Switzerland. Women from Lipong would send their photographs and some personal information to her and she would find them partners.

According to Cariño, the woman did not ask for payment as she only wanted to help her village mates. In turn, the women she helped recommended their own sisters, cousins and village mates to other Swiss men looking for brides.

In Lipong, it was not uncommon for one family to have three or four members married to Swiss men. One family has three sisters married to three Swiss brothers.

Sister act

The daughter of 61-year-old Ireneo Vergara married a Swiss in 1994. Another daughter was set to marry next month, also to a Swiss.

It was a niece married to a Swiss, who had introduced Vergara's elder daughter to her Swiss husband.

Vergara's elder daughter went to Switzerland and managed her husband's restaurant business. She asked her younger sister to visit and later on, to work there. In time, the younger sister found a Swiss boyfriend.

Vergara said his daughters would send money for the family's needs.

Through his daughters' help, he was able to buy 10 hectares of rice land and another parcel of land where he planted mango and mahogany trees.

Vergara described his son-in-law and the other Swiss men who married women from the village as "old-fashioned."

"They may come from a rich country but they are like the Filipinos in many aspects, like their love for family," he said.

Vergara's siblings also benefited from the "Swiss bounty." His eldest daughter in Switzerland had sent money for her siblings' school needs and for the construction of their houses.

Swiss support

Tito Gamuela, who used to live in the village, said the economic lot of many families greatly improved in the past years due to these marriages.

He pointed to a new bungalow in the village that was built with the help of the daughters of a family here.

"Their mother used to buy and sell *puto* (rice cakes) in the market. The family was really hard up, but after the three daughters got married and left for Switzerland, their life improved," Gamuela said.

Sad but true

The women of the village now working in Switzerland also bought land for their parents or brothers to farm. Others bought farm equipment and tricycles so their fathers or brothers could earn extra money, he said.

When asked if some parents or siblings had become too dependent on their relatives abroad, Gamuela said: "It's sad but it's true. [Some] just wait for the money sent by their [daughters or] sisters."

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WE ACCEPT PROVINCIAL JOBS AND INSTALLATION

The 'powerhouse' on Adler Street: Just like any other family

By Nancy Carvajal

TWO PEOPLE WHO KNEW THE owner of the house where six Magdalo officers were arrested the other day said the houseowner could in no way be connected to the rebel group.

"There's no way that Ador Noche is a supporter of the group because he is based in the United States with his family," Barangay Batasan Hills chair Rannie Ludovica told the INQUIRER.

This was echoed by a priest at the subdivision who used to rent the house on Adler St., Fil-Invest 2.

"They were low-profile people and would not have to do with anything like that," the Christ the King Church priest said. The priest gave his name to the INQUIRER but asked that it not be published in deference to more senior priests who he said might be in a better position to talk about the matter.

P10,000 a month

The priest said he and other priests rented the same house last year for P10,000 pesos a month. Police said the group that took the house for the Magdalo soldiers was renting for P35,000.

Ludovica said it was the owner's brother, Ronnie Noche, who rented out the house to a woman who was with the Magdalo group when government raiders barged in on Friday.

The woman and the two boys, aged 10 and 12, who were also in the house, were later released by the police.

A golden retriever

Neighbors and subdivision workers said the occupants of the safehouse gave the appearance of being an ordinary family and that they even had a dog.

"*Parang hindi iba kasi may mga bata at may aso pa* (They looked no different because they even had children and a dog)," said Jeoffrey Taburenti, a subdivision maintenance worker.

The dog was a golden retriever which the woman had bought from a dog shop inside the subdivison for P15,000.

Ma and Pa

Taburenti said that, except for a man whom he presumed to be the father of the two boys, and the woman, whom he thought to be their mother, he did not notice any other person entering or leaving the house.

He said that, while working on a vacant lot beside the house, he could sometimes hear the boys playing with the dog.

Sometimes, the boy would bring the dog out into the street in front of the metal gate.

Tinted van

"If they leave, we see them ride in a tinted L-300 van or a Mitsubishi car," he said.

The house is sandwiched by two empty lots and could be reached from two sides coming from Gate 1 of the subdivision. It is the last building on the street.

"They seem to be just like any decent family with children," another neighbor said.

Little did the neighbors know that when government raiders moved in on Friday, they would find—or so the raiders said—high powered explosives and assault rifles in the house.

Scout Rangers watched

From page A1

the "misguided" sentiments of the officers and men of the First Scout Rangers Regiment (FSRR).

Tolentino said the FSRR's commander, Col. Reynaldo Mapagu, had talked to his men and told them they "would be on the losing end if they allowed themselves to be used in the conflicts by politicians."

"They are an enlightened lot now," Tolentino said.

'Many steps ahead'

On Feb. 24, after the administration uncovered what it said was a plan by rebel soldiers to seize power, troops led by 7th Division chief Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan surrounded the Rangers' Camp Tecson and set up blockades in San Miguel town to prevent unauthorized movements by troops loyal to Lim. Tolentino himself mobilized two attack helicopters and several tanks from the Light Armor Brigade.

Tolentino said rebel soldiers could not now penetrate Nolcom because "we are many steps ahead."

Batasan blueprint

On Friday, military and police intelligence rounded up six Army junior officers and two civilians in a pre-dawn raid in a rented house in Filinvest II subdivision, Quezon City. *(Related story on Page A4.)*

Those arrested were Capt. Nathaniel Rabonza; 1Lt. Patricio Bumidang and Sonny Sarmiento, 2Lt. Angelbert Gay and Aldrin Baldonado, and Navy Lt. Kiram Sadava.

Also taken in were two civilians, lawyer Jose Christopher Belmonte and Michael Yangson.

Officials raised suspicions that the group was planning to bomb the Batasan Pambansa during President Macapagal-Arroyo's State of the Nation Address on July 24, based on the large amount of explosives and blueprints of the Batasan complex found in the house.

Tighter Batasan security

Speaker Jose de Venecia ordered more stringent security measures at the House complex.

"I have ordered a strengthening of all security measures in the Batasan complex in view of the President's State of the Nation Address on July 24 and the expected complication from the impeachment complaints filed against the President," De Venecia said.

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said the recovery of explosives and the Batasan complex's blueprint from the Magdalo officers showed the "terrorist" tendencies of the military rebels.

House probe

"We have to find out who provided them with this blueprint," Nograles said.

He said the House leadership would initiate an investigation into the matter.

"This is a grim reminder to all of us that these people are very, very dangerous and do not deserve the smallest amount of public sympathy," Nograles said. *With reports from Norman Bordadora and Dona Pazzibugan*

Rebels attack GMA security detail

From page A1

way to her landing zone, the source said.

Lorie de los Reyes, media relations officer of the Office of the President, told the INQUIRER that Ms Arroyo left Compostela town by helicopter for Maguindanao about two hours prior to the strafing incident.

Amodia said that at around 1 p.m., an undetermined number of New People's Army rebels using automatic weapons fired on the military truck carrying soldiers from the Army's 28th Infantry Battalion as it was traversing Barangay Sibunga in Nabunturan town.

He said the President's life was never in danger during her visit to Compostela, where she attended the inauguration of a plant tissue culture laboratory.

Harassment

Senior Supt. Nestor Quinsay, Compostela Valley police chief, said the strafing was an isolated incident.

"[The soldiers] were just harassed," Quinsay said.

But he admitted that troops later temporarily closed the highway to ensure against any more threats to the lives of motorists.

Insincerity

In Cotabato City, Michael Defensor, Ms Arroyo's chief of staff, said the incident was proof that the communist rebels were not sincere when they called for the resumption of the stalled peace negotiations.

"The campaign against communist groups would definitely continue," Defensor said.

Earlier, Malacañang said there would be no peace talks unless the rebels agreed to an immediate ceasefire nationwide.

The Communist Party of the Philippines has been waging a 37-year insurgency through its armed wing, the NPA.

The military has placed the NPA's strength at 7,400 guerrillas scattered in remote areas of Southern Luzon, the Visayas, and Southern and Northern Mindanao. *With reports from Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. in Manila*

The other Danny Lim …

From page A1

Cebu City on Friday.

Tagbilaran City Mayor Dan Lim was supposed to be in Cebu for the July 7 Regional Development Councils meeting graced by Ms Arroyo. The mayor had been invited to the meeting along with other officials from the Central Visayas region.

Lim, however, had to present the mayor's score card during a presentation at the Institute for Solidarity in Asia in Panglao town, Bohol.

Life changed

The mayor added that his life changed after the general's controversial video was aired.

"I am now asked to make a personal appearance when I purchase an airline ticket," Lim said.

The mayor flies often to Manila where two of his three children are studying.

"Before, I could just send my driver to buy the ticket. Now, they refuse to issue any ticket unless I appear personally," he said, but declined to reveal if he was referring to one or more airline companies.

Lim said he did not mind the inconvenience. "It's a small price to pay for being a namesake of an officer and a gentleman."

"I have nothing to be ashamed of," the mayor said when asked how he felt to be a namesake of the embattled Gen. Danilo Lim, who remains in police custody because of his role in the Feb. 24 coup plot.

Gen. Lim found himself in the eye of a storm after ANC, the ABS-CBN news channel, showed a video footage of the general reading a prepared message withdrawing his support from Ms Arroyo.

Lim said he did not mind if he would be mistaken for the Scout Ranger general.

His friends call him Jun-Jun or Dan; it is not uncommon for people to call him Danny Lim.

"How I wish I had the same waistline [as Gen. Lim's] so it would even be more confusing," the mayor said in jest.

Admirer

Turning serious, Lim said he respected the general for being a man of principle.

The mayor confessed that he befriended his namesake many years ago when Gen. Lim was still a captain.

The mayor, who is also a lawyer, said he did not believe the general violated any law just because he read his statement.

"I admire him because he made a stand when he realized that he could do something to prevent violence and the loss of lives," Lim said.

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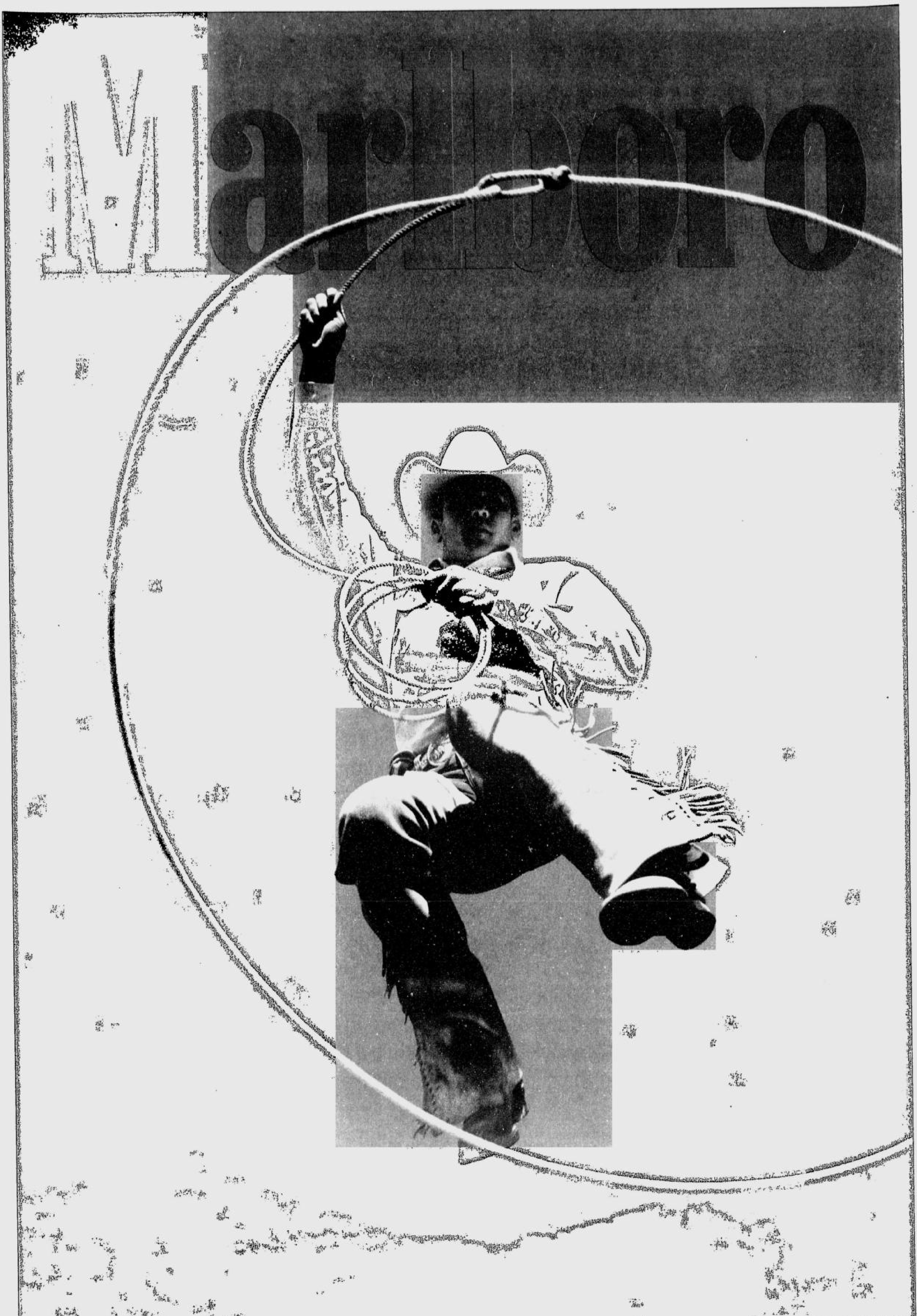

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FPI APPEALS FOR SOBRIETY

News is again full of alarming moves and quarrels in almost all corners, confidently justified, wittingly and unwittingly, by their respective claims that it is judiciously done in the interest of our people and our country.

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WE ARE NOT ANYWHERE NEAR OUR GOAL!

It may sound redundant, but this practically reflects our true and sorry state – pure and simple.

We are still poor, we are still struggling and we are still quarrelling among ourselves. Indeed, our country is continuously reeling from these unwarranted punches, which, sad to say, is wrongly, and, worse – self-inflicted. Our nation is bleeding and if this trend will not stop – we are certainly doomed to oblivion.

We, the businessmen, are emphatically disappointed, confused and distressed.

We have always made it clear at the outset that we support all actions and processes within the bounds of the Constitution. Once this action is started, let us allow the law and its processes to take its natural course. This stand still remains.

We respect the views of all concerned including the exercise of their rights guaranteed within the frameworks of our Constitution.

However, we are appealing to them not to lose focus on other issues of equal importance. The problems of the country run deeper. We are combating poverty on all fronts and the business sector is not spared from these hard times. We are faced with higher cost of doing business – higher taxes, higher fuel cost, a fluctuating exchange rate, smuggling and corruption. But we have been doing our best to manage these roadblocks, encouraged by the present administration's efforts of putting the economy at the forefront of its mandate.

Time is running out .... There is so much to be done. We can only do so if we can get our acts together and work as a nation.
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JESUS L. ARRANZA
President

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Dirty water kills 12 Pinoys daily

By Volt Contreras

DISEASES TRACEABLE TO UNTREATED wastewater kill up to 12 Filipinos daily, and the economy loses up to P67 billion a year when this otherwise recyclable resource drains away as mere sewage.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) cited these figures in the course of calling on local government units to invest in wastewater treatment systems, which it has set out to develop in seven cities nationwide.

In a statement issued Friday through the US Embassy, the donor agency said "a successful model" for such projects would be one facility that it helped build in the Muntinlupa City Public Market, and that was now considered the Philippines' "first low-cost wastewater treatment facility."

"Twelve Filipinos die every day as a result of exposure to unsanitary wastewater," the USAID said.

It said that according to the World Bank, "more than 90 percent of all sewage generated in the Philippines is not treated," leading to fatal waterborne diseases and economic losses estimated at P67 billion per year.

The other cities scheduled to build their own facilities with USAID assistance are Calbayog, Dumaguete, Iloilo, Malaybalay, Naga, and San Fernando in La Union, the USAID said.

In Muntinlupa, the city government financed the construction of the P6.8-million facility, with the USAID providing technical and design assistance.

In operation since January, it can process daily up to 210 cubic meters of the public market's wastewater into water safe for cleaning or irrigation.

No mention of money laundering in charges vs Erap, says lawyer

By Norman Bordadora

ESTRADA

A LAWYER FOR DEPOSED PRESIDENT JOSEPH Estrada yesterday said that while former beauty contestant Joelle Pelaez gave news interviews accusing Estrada of large scale money laundering, the complaints she filed against him and bank officials failed to mention any instance of such crime.

Lawyer Rufus Rodriguez said his client has been aggrieved by Pelaez's pronouncements in the media especially so because there was no information on the alleged money laundering in Pelaez's cases against Estrada and United Coconut Planters' Bank executives before the city prosecutors' offices of Pasig and Makati.

"In fact, the forgery case she filed against two officials of the UCPB before the Pasig court does not even include President Estrada while the other case of deceit that Ms Pelaez filed against President Estrada and some officials of UCPB and San Miguel Corp. does not mention money laundering," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez said Estrada will file his own P30 million libel suit against Pelaez, her mother Blanquita and Manila Standard Today this week.

He said Estrada's defense lawyers in the plunder case against him before the Sandiganbayan will ask the anti-graft court tomorrow to allow him to leave his "resthouse" arrest at his Tanay, Rizal estate to file the criminal and civil complaints before the Manila City prosecutor's office.

"The nature of the cases requires the complainant to personally appear before the prosecutor to swear to the charges he is filing," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez said Estrada is convinced that Pelaez and her mother were being used by individuals with an axe to grind against Estrada "to destroy his credibility and to poison the minds of the Sandiganbayan justices on his plunder case."

Estrada has just finished his testimony in the plunder case and his lawyers are in the process of winding down his defense.

'Ester' leaves more rains as it veers away

By Norman Bordadora

TYPHOON ESTER CONTINUED ON ITS WAY out of the country but was forecast by Pagasa to enhance the southwest monsoon that will bring moderate to heavy rains over the western sections of Luzon and Visayas.

In its severe weather bulletin released yesterday at 4:30 p.m., public storm signal No. 1 remained hoisted over Batanes and Calayan groups of islands north of Luzon.

"Residents in areas under Public Storm Warning Signal 1 and the western section of Luzon are alerted against possible flashfloods and landslides," Pagasa said in a late afternoon bulletin.

The eye of Typhoon Ester was located based on surface and satellite data at 550 kilometers northeast of Basco in Batanes as of 2 p.m. yesterday, said Pagasa.

It was packing maximum sustained winds of 150 kms and gustiness of up to 185 kph. It was forecast to move north northwest at 19 kph.

Pagasa said Luzon and western Visayas will experience occasional monsoon rains becoming frequent rains over western Luzon which may trigger flashfloods and landslides.

Mindanao, it said, will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

The weather bureau said the rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

Moderate to strong winds blowing from the southwest will prevail over Luzon and western Visayas and the coastal waters along these areas will be moderate to rough, Pagasa warned.

Elsewhere, winds will be light to moderate blowing from the southwest with slight to moderate seas, it added.

'It's time to amend Labor Code'

SECRETARY ARTURO Brion yesterday said he backs the moves to amend the Labor Code of the Philippines and to do away with provisions that are no longer relevant.

Brion told reporters that he would be convening a "labor relations working group," composed of DOLE experts, in the next two weeks to tackle issues related to the amendments to the Labor Code.

"The Labor Code is now 32 years, it may be the time to change some of its provisions," he said.

The group, Brion said, will come out with proposed legislation.

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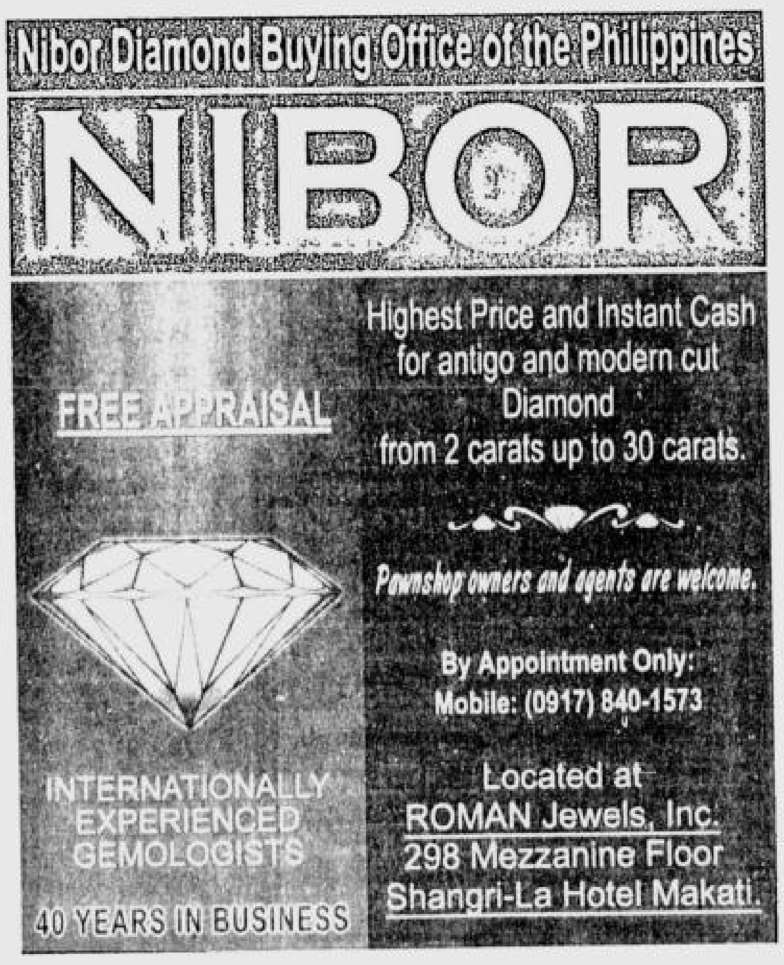
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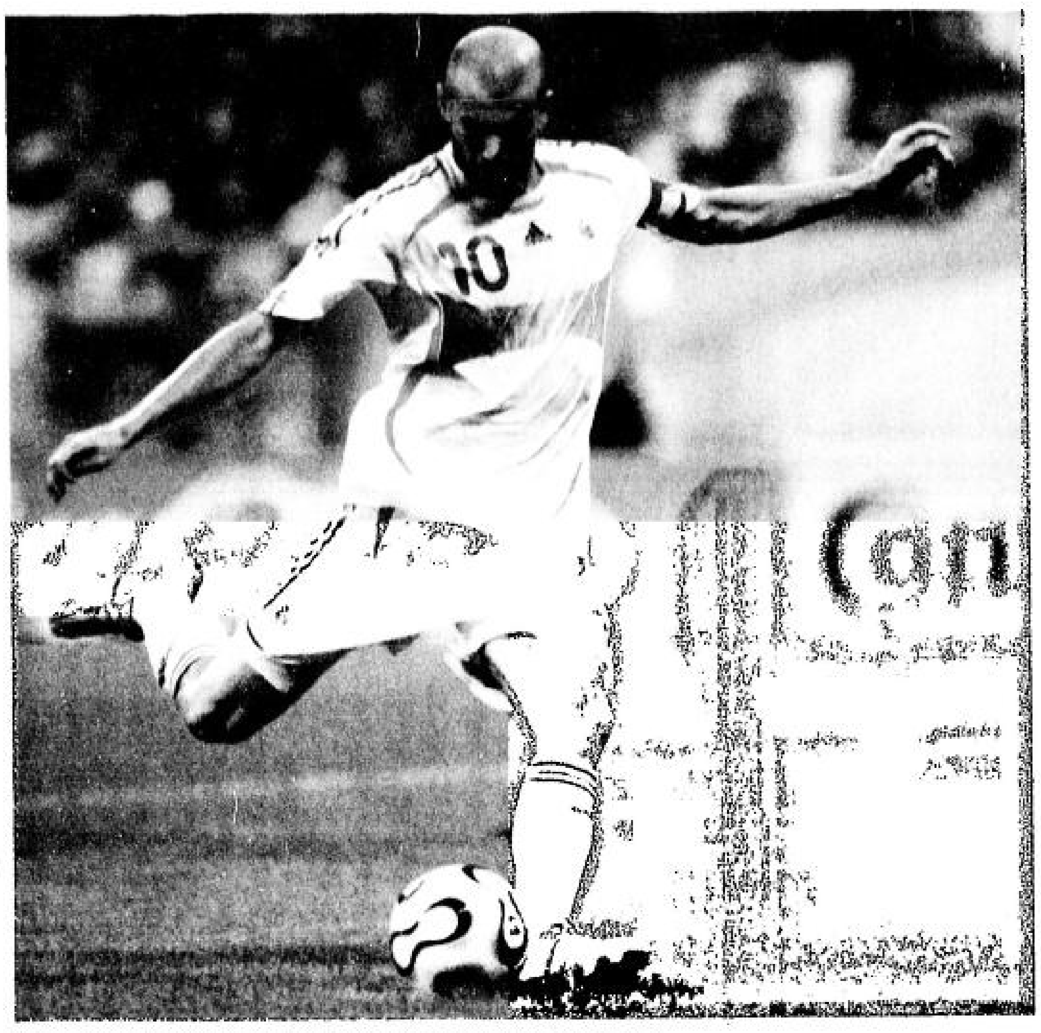

ZINEDINE ZIDANE: Final curtain call for football maestro

Zinedine Zidane: Perfect exit for football's greatest artist

FOOTBALL'S GREATEST ARTIST BOWING out by playing a World Cup final seems too wonderful to be true but Zinedine Zidane has set the scene for the perfect final curtain on Sunday.

Zidane will lead France into the title match against Italy in Berlin, the last game of a glittering career for club and country.

"He is one of the players who is worth the price of the ticket to see," Italy midfielder Gennaro Gattuso, as scruffy as Zidane is elegant, said of the player he will try to stop from shining on the pitch of the Olympic stadium.

When the midfield maestro announced in April that he would retire after the finals, France coach Raymond Domenech said Zidane's finest hour may still come.

Few suggested then, however, that the man who scored two headed goals when les Bleus stunned Brazil 3-0 to lift the most coveted of all trophies for the first time in 1998, would sign off by playing a second World Cup final.

Rusty at first

France had struggled to qualify and Zidane, who came out of international retirement last year to help France win a ticket to Germany, had looked rusty for months in sluggish performances for Real Madrid.

The gifted son of Algerian immigrants was past his prime, it seemed, and his first matches in the tournament confirmed the impression.

Two anonymous performances and as many yellow cards in two dismal draws meant he was suspended when France played Togo in their Group G decider.

Pure magic

Had France failed to reach the knockout stage, Zidane, who watched that match from the dressing room on his 34th birthday, would have left by the back door.

Instead France beat Togo 2-0 and the man his fans call Zizou returned for a second-round match against Spain, orchestrating play with calm authority and scoring a superb goal in added time in a 3-1 win that was the turning point in France's campaign.

"Retirement? I'm sorry to have to tell them (the Spaniards) that it won't be after this match," Zidane said then. "The adventure continues."

Then came Brazil in a rematch o the 1998 final and Zidane was pur magic in a 1-0 win, rolling back th years and pulling out all his old trick in one of the most magnificent dis plays of his entire career.

"Watching Zizou play must mak others feel they should stop," Franc midfielder Patrick Vieira said afte that match.

"It also makes you wish he woul carry on."

Age defying performance

Another age-defying performanc in a 1-0 semi-final victory over Portugal in which he drove home the winning penalty followed, Zidane's 30th goal in his 107th appearance fo France setting the stage for the ultimate farewell party.

"He means so much to the French people," Domenech said of his captain in the build-up to the final curtain.

"He gives them something to chee and he has done that now for 1 years. And we hope there is anothe day to come on Sunday." *Reuters*

France going for fairy tale finish ...

From page A1

they were all eight years younger and at the peak of their games. We were really afraid of them and we suffered a lot because of that."

France has no reason to fear any team after outplaying Brazil in the quarterfinals. But the French weren't quite so effective with the ball against Portugal in the semis.

Their defense? Impeccable.

"We don't concede goals," said Thierry Henry, France's leading scorer with three goals in the tournament. "Everyone fights and fights together. When we need to make the difference, we make the difference.

"After we scored the penalty, we defended like lions," he added of the victory over Portugal.

Attacking talents

Such regal defense will be needed again Sunday because, even with their defensive personas in the World Cup, both teams bring a wealth of attacking talents.

Ten different players have scored for Italy, led by striker Luca Toni with two. But it has been Francesco Totti and Andrea Pirlo that has sparked the attack, and Fabio Grosso is among the tournament's most effective defenders near the opposition's net. Even such players as Alessandro del Piero and Filippo Inzaghi have made major contributions as substitutes.

France has midfielder extraordinaire Zinedine Zidane, who has recaptured the form he used to win three Fifa player of the year awards and to lead France to the 1998 championship. Henry, although his marksmanship could be more precise, always is a threat, and Patrick Vieira's recent performances rival any of his teammates'.

For all that attacking acuity on both sides, a 1-0 result is entirely possible. Perhaps even inevitable. The defenses simply are that strong.

"Our defense is pretty good and our goalkeeper is pretty much unbeatable," Italy coach Marcello Lippi said.

"We were convinced from the start that defensive cohesion would be the key to success," France defender Willy Sagnol said. "It is not an iron defense. It is a high-performance defense.

"The true cognoscenti will say that this is soccer. A solid defense is the key to success. We knew this from the start."

Au revoir to Zidane

At the age of 34, Zidane will bid 'au revoir' from football on the biggest stage of all, bringing the curtain down on a glittering career that has seen him win every major honor the sport has to offer.

Now a global audience of 1.5 billion will focus their gaze on Berlin's 69,000-capacity Olympic Stadium to see if the French magician can pull off one last, glorious conjuring trick.

Win or lose, Zidane's place in the pantheon is assured, his role in helping France to the final after coming out of international retirement adding luster to the legend.

"It's going to be very difficult and we are going to have to be at the top of our game, but we have the weapons to do it," said Zidane, scorer of two goals against Brazil in the final in Paris eight years ago.

No one associated with Sunday's final appreciates the threat of Zidane better than the masterful Lippi, who was Zidane's manager for three years at Juventus when the French maestro was at the peak of his powers.

Best in 20 years

"France has recovered the best Zidane and has grown through the tournament," Lippi said. "Zidane is probably the best player there has been in the past 20 years."

Despite the high praise, if anyone can come up with a plan to thwart Zidane, it is the shrewd 58-year-old who has overseen Italy's stealthy progress into their sixth World Cup final.

Victory for the Azzurri will confirm Lippi as the most successful manager in the history of Italian football, adding the greatest prize of all to the five Italian titles and Champions League crown he won with Juventus.

While a fairy-tale finish beckons Zidane and France, Italy too is driven by its own sense of destiny, having seen its domestic football buried in an avalanche of corruption scandals in the weeks leading up to the finals.

Masterpiece of management

Lippi's role in forging such a battle-hardened team against such a lurid backdrop will go down as a masterpiece of man-management.

"We have shown that we have got some great footballers and that we are not criminals," said Italy's veteran striker Alessandro del Piero. "Everything that has happened off the pitch has brought us closer together." France may take a slight psychological advantage into the final having beaten the Italians three times in major tournaments since 1986.

Their most recent victory over the Azzurri came in the final of Euro 2000, when Italy was just 17 seconds away from winning before France equalized and David Trezeguet struck a memorable golden goal winner.

Italy has moved on since then. Only two members of the side beaten in Rotterdam—captain Cannavaro and Francesco Totti—are expected to star in Sunday's final. France, on the other hand, will take to the field with five of the side that prevailed in Holland. *AP, AFP*

PLAYING FOR ITALY, from left, first row, Andrea Pirlo, Fabio Cannavaro, Mauro Camoranesi, Gennaro Gattuso, Simone Perrotta and Gianluca Zambrotta. Second row, standing, Marco Materazzi, Luca Toni, Gianluigi Buffon, Fabio Grosso and Francesco Totti.

AP

PLAYING FOR FRANCE from top left: William Gallas, Zinedine Zidane, Patrick Vieira, Thierry Henry, Lilian Thuram, Eric Abidal, Claude Makelele, Florent Malouda, Fabien Barthez, Willy Sagnol and Frank Ribery.

AP

Palace: Hyatt 10 still 10? Dinky: We're more than 10

From page A1

Sec retary Cesar Purisima, ex-Trade Secretary Juan Santos, ex-Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, . ex-Education Secretary Florencio Abad, ex-Agrarian Reform Secretary Rene Villa, ex-Peace Adviser Teresita "Ging" Deles, ex-National Anti-Poverty Commission chair Imelda Nicolas, ex-Customs Commissioner Alberto Lina, and ex-Internal Revenue chief Guillermo Parayno.

Claudio claimed that some of them had either distanced themselves from the group or sent feelers to the administration. But he refused to name them.

"Unless they can at least show that they themselves are intact, they have no business making arrogant but false assertions representing the people and maligning the President," he said, adding:

"They have failed, not once, but many times. They will fail again."

'All are victims'

Soliman, however, said: "No one is a victor; all of us are victims of this downward spiral of poverty and cynicism due to Malacañang's strategy of political survival at all cost."

She also said the statement contained in the advertisement was the product of "full consultation" among all 10 members of the group.

"Nothing has changed," she said, adding that despite the members' going separate ways, their constant communication with one another was "a continuing manifestation of our commitment."

Asked whether Villa, who was in Spain at the time of Ms Arroyo's recent state visit there, was still part of the group, Soliman said: "Very much so."

She said that Villa was in Spain at the instance of his client, a Spanish corporation, and that although he was still currently in Paris, he was aware of and in agreement with the Hyatt 10 statement and its contents.

Election fraud

In the advertisement, the Hyatt 10 said in part: "Over time, despite the suppression of efforts to get to the bottom of the ongoing crisis, this much is clear: Widespread irregularities and illegal use of public funds attended the victory of Arroyo in the 2004 elections, extensive cover-up was perpetuated to hide the fraud and authoritarian measures were employed to stifle protest by an enraged citizenry."

The group pushed for the amendment of specific provisions of the Constitution to enable a full revamp of the Commission on Elections, the holding of a "snap" election for the presidency, and the election of delegates to a constitutional convention along with other candidates in the May 2007 elections.

It called for a ceasefire and the strengthening of the foundation for peace negotiations with communist insurgents, with a joint declaration of key forces to abide by ground rules to ensure that the process would be without violence and fraud.

The Hyatt 10 also said the Arroyo administration had endorsed a "bogus people's initiative" to amend the Constitution, raised the "communist bogey," and shifted from a peaceful to a militarist approach to end the insurgency as another diversionary ploy.

Claudio, however, did not dwell on any of the Hyatt 10's recommendations.

'Give country a break'

Apart from questioning whether the Hyatt 10 still had its numbers, Claudio also wondered why opposition lawmakers were pushing on with the impeachment case against Ms Arroyo when they themselves had conceded to not having the required votes to carry this through to the Senate.

"In the wake of admissions of the opposition that they do not have the numbers to impeach the President, we appeal to them t quit and give the country a break," he said.

Claudio claimed that as in last year, the opposition would not be able to muster enough votes at the House of Representatives to get the impeachment case rolling

"Their case is rehashed and worn-out and is not supported by the public. There is no outrage out there nor appreciation and sympathy from the people for what they are doing. The only honorable and patriotic thing for them to do is to give the country a respite from politics," he said

The opposition needs 78 votes to have a complaint sent directly to the opposition-dominated Senate, which can then hold an impeachment trial.

Last year's impeachment bid mustered only 51 votes.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Trust us, Comelec appeals

By Norman Bordadora

HE STILL HAS TO BE CLEARED OF HIS ALleged complicity in the poll automation scandal.

But Commission on Elections chair Benjamin Abalos yesterday appealed to the electorate to trust the Comelec under his watch when they go back to the polls in next year's national and local elections.

The Comelec's credibility and integrity have been put under serious question after one of its officials, former Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, was accused of rigging the results of the 2004 elections. He was caught on tape allegedly talking with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Abalos assured that as long as he was the chair of the Comelec, he would not allow cheating to mar the country's elections.

No to cheating

"We are being made to look evil in the eyes of the public; that we cannot be trusted for the coming elections. I will not allow cheating to happen in the elections," Abalos said.

Abalos also said there was still a chance that the 2007 elections would be partly automated.

"If Congress will enact the new poll automation law by August, we may have enough time for a limited automated elections," Abalos said.

He said there may be enough time to invite bids and purchase the required hardware.

But he said that the automation may be limited to two regions.

He said he would be open to suggestions on which technology to adopt for the automated polls once the changes to the poll automation law are enacted by Congress.

The Comelec had wanted to automate the 2004 elections but the plan was junked after the Supreme Court voided in 2004 the poll automation contract awarded to a consortium due to alleged irregularities.

Beating a June 30 deadline, the Ombudsman had recommended the impeachment of Commissioner Resureccion Borra in connection with the failed poll automation contract.

Not yet off the hook

But other Comelec officials, including Abalos, are not yet off the hook. The Ombudsman is continuing its investigation.

Abalos has denied any wrongdoing.

"As to the allegations of corruption, as to the allegations that we made money here, it was never mentioned in the Supreme Court ruling," said Abalos at the weekly Kapihan sa Sulo news forum yesterday.

"And yet it appears that in the public perception, we made money here. That hurts," the Comelec chair lamented.

Abalos defended anew the Comelec's contract with the Mega Pacific consortium.

He said the contract was just worth P1.2 billion, substantially less than the P1.3 billion of the approved cost estimate for the poll automation project.

Abalos said that the accuracy of Mega Pacific's computers of one error per 20,000 ballots was still quite accurate considering that, according to him, the average voting population of a municipality in the country was 20,000.

He added that the Mega Pacific consortium, although just 11 days old at the time of the bidding in 2003, was composed of long existing corporations.

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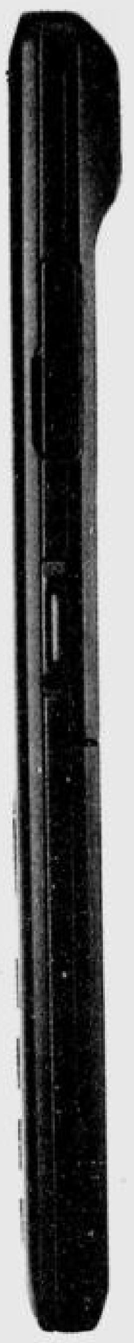

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OPINION

Light in ambiguity

EDITORIAL

IT MUST HAVE COME AS SOMEWHAT OF A SURprise to the country's Catholic bishops when President Macapagal-Arroyo returned from Rome the other week with a new theology of politics. Surely, the influential Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines must have expected her, like any other head of government coming off a personal audience with the Pope, to make political capital out of the visit. But a new theology?

We suppose that a large part of the surprise lay in the realization that President Arroyo does not read the CBCP's pastoral statements. We expect the bishops to issue another statement today, at the end of their annual mid-year retreat. Perhaps, this time, they should actually give her a copy, make an event out of it; pay a courtesy call to hand over the new statement. The President, who after all is a devout Catholic, would then have no excuse not to read it.

Of course, if the President were in the habit of reading CBCP statements, then she would not have made the outstanding mistake of assuming that Pope Benedict XVI's first encyclical, "Deus Caritas Est," was (a) new and (b) hitherto unused in public discourse. As a result, she came back from her European sojourn with two false notions: that she had found in the encyclical a religious justification for the separation of Church and State, and that she would be the first to expound on it.

False, because in conformity with the Church's growing corpus of social doctrines, the encyclical in fact reemphasized the moral dimension of public life.

And false a second time, because last January, the last time the bishops met in plenary, the pastoral statement they issued already adverted to the encyclical. The seventh paragraph of that statement reads: "As Bishops, we realize that the root cause of our debilitating situation is the erosion of moral values ... Pope Benedict XVI cites St. Augustine's observation that 'a State which is not governed according to justice would be just a bunch of thieves.' (Deus Caritas Est, 28)"

Last April, just before Holy Week, and at the height of the manufactured clamor for constitutional change through a so-called people's initiative, the CBCP president, Archbishop Angel Lagdameo of Jaro, issued another statement on behalf of all the bishops. That statement's very beginning is straight from the encyclical: "'The Church... must not remain on the sidelines in the fight for justice.' (Deus Caritas Est, 28) This challenging call of our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, impels us to express to you, our beloved People of God, our deep concern over the attempt of certain sectors to make hasty and substantial changes to our Constitution ..."

The President and her many spokespersons, however, have betrayed no indication that they had read the statements and, in particular, these references to the encyclical. This is a pity, because in their reading of the current political situation, they are right to judge the role of the bishops as pivotal. That reading explains the decisive action, to give only one example, on the repeal of the death penalty. But in courting the Church, they surely ought to know not only what but how the members of the hierarchy are thinking.

Perhaps they did read the statements, but then forgot about the details. That would be a greater pity. That means they are beginning to discount the influence of the bishops; proof positive that they think the President's crisis of legitimacy is, if not exactly resolved, then managed at least. That also means they have failed to appreciate the increasingly sharp tone and more specific language of the bishops' pastoral statements. Compare "Restoring trust: A plea for moral values in Philippine politics," issued a year ago, with "Renewing our public life through moral values," released six months later. The theme remains the same, but the specifics are very different. A year ago, the bishops spoke uncertainly of political options founded on "a speculative and highly controvertible basis." Last January, they did not mince words: "What we have seen instead are acts of evasion and obstruction of the truth, as in the case of the wiretapping and Garcillano tapes controversy."

We expect the new pastoral statement to provide even more light to guide the faithful through the prevailing ambiguity.

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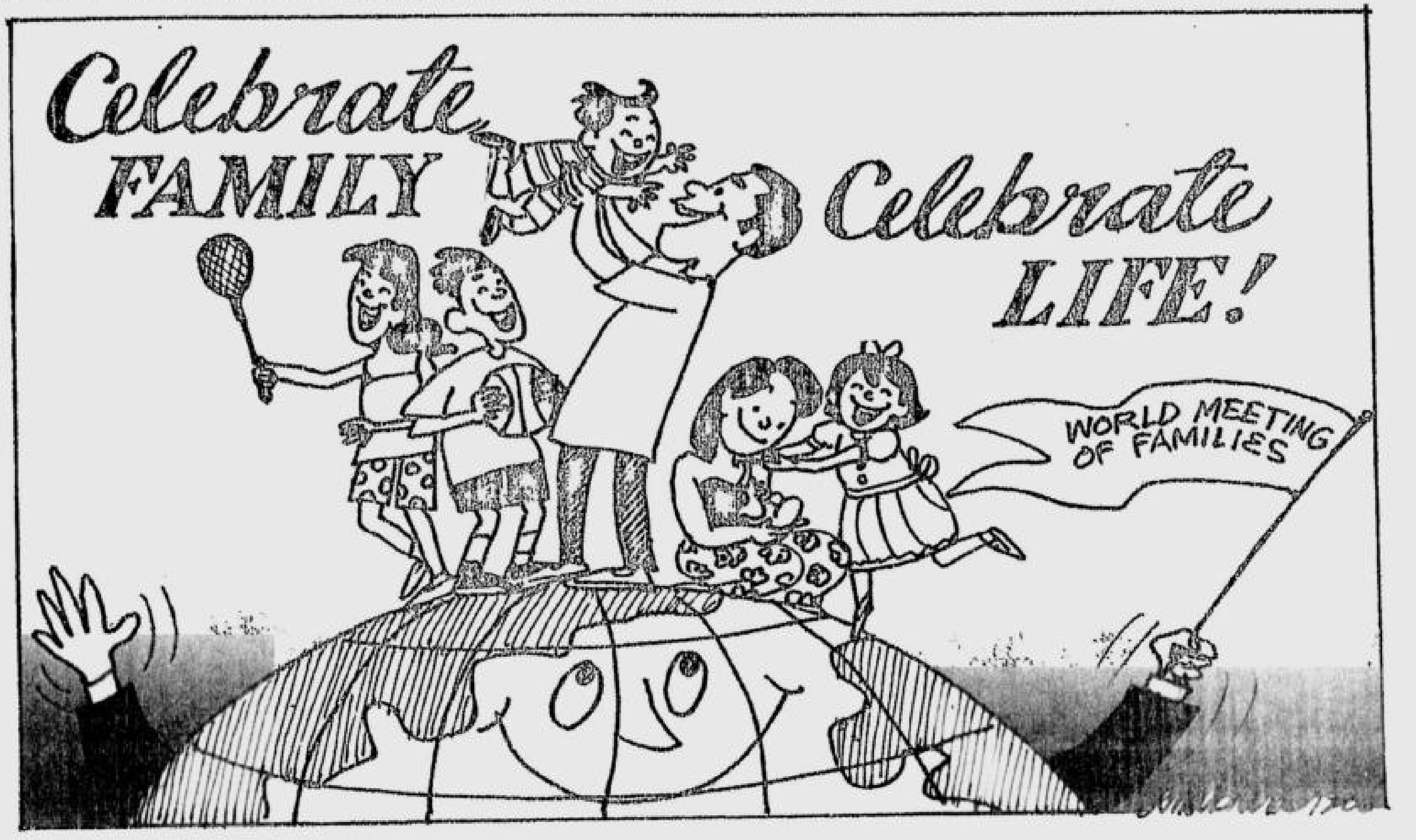

The unconstitutional 'sona'

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

IN THE CASE OF GUAZON VS. DE VILLA, 181 SCRA 623, a petition was filed against the "areal saturation drives" or "*sonas*" conducted by the armed forces in 12 depressed communities in Metro Manila where more than 1,500 persons were roused from sleep, subjected to arbitrary searches and arrests and other violations of their human rights. Their leaders sought relief from the Supreme Court, which copped out and remanded the case to the lower courts. Following are excerpts from my dissenting opinion that I now offer as unsolicited advice to our soldiers in their current "war" against the enemies of our Republic.

"While acknowledging that the military is conducting the saturation drives, the majority practically blinks them away on mere technicalities. First, there are no proper parties. Second, there is no proof. Therefore, the petition is dismissed.

"The approach is to me too much simplification. We do not choose to see the woods for the trees. The brutal fact is staring us in the face but we look the other way in search of excuses.

"The majority says it cannot act against the drives because no one directly affected has complained. Such silence, if I understand the *ponencia* correctly, has in effect purged the drives of all oppressiveness and washed them clean.

"(The real reason for the silence is fear. These raids are conducted not in the enclaves of the rich but in the deprived communities where the residents have no power or influence. The parties directly aggrieved are afraid. They are the little people. They cannot protest lest they provoke retaliation for their temerity. Their only hope is in this Court, and we should not deny them that hope.)

"The ruling that the petitioners are not proper parties is a specious pretext for inaction. We have held that technical objections may be brushed aside if there are constitutional questions that must be met...

"I believe that where liberty is involved, every person is a proper party even if he is not directly injured. Each of us has a duty to protect liberty and that alone makes him a proper party. It is not only the owner of the burning house who has the right to call the firemen. Everyone has the right and **responsibility** to prevent the fire from spreading even if he lives in the other block.

"The majority seems to be willing to just accept the Solicitor General's assertion that the claimed abuses are 'complete lies' and leave it at that. But a blanket denial is not enough. The evidence is there on the media, in the papers and on radio and television. That kind of evidence cannot be cavalierly dismissed as 'complete lies.'

"The saturation drive is not unfamiliar to us. It is like the 'sona' of the Japanese Occupation. An area was surrounded by soldiers and all residents were flushed out of their houses and lined up to be looked over by a person with a bag over his head. This man pointed to suspected guerrillas who were immediately arrested and eventually if not instantly executed.

"To be sure, there are some variations now. The most important difference is that it is no longer 1943 and the belligerent occupation is over. There is no more war. It is now 1990, when we are supposed to be under a free Republic and safeguarded by the Bill of Rights...

"Yet in the dead of night, armed soldiers may knock on one's door, and command him at gunpoint to come out so he and his neighbors, who have also been rounded up, can all be placed on public examination, as in a slave market. This is followed by the arrest and detention of those suspected of villainy, usually on the basis only of the tattoos on their bodies or the informer's accusing finger.

"Saturation drives are not among the accepted instances when a search or an arrest may be made without warrant. They come under the concept of the fishing expedition stigmatized by law and doctrine. At any rate, if the majority is really introducing the 'sona' as another exception to the rule, it must not equivocate. It must state that exception in forthright language and not in vague generalizations that concede the wrong but deny the right.

"I urge my brethren to accept the fact that those drives are per se unconstitutional. I urge them to accept that even without proof of the hooded figure and the personal indignities and the loss and destruction of properties and the other excesses allegedly committed, the mere waging of the saturation drives alone is enough to make this Court react with outraged concern.

"The danger to our free institutions lies not only in those who openly defy the authority of the government and violate the laws. The greater menace is in those who, in the name of democracy, destroy the very things it stands for—as in this case—and so undermine democracy itself.

"Where liberty is debased into a cruel illusion, all of us are degraded and diminished. Liberty is indivisible; it belongs to everyone. We should remember that when the bell tolls the death of liberty for one of us, 'it tolls for thee,' and for all of us."

Justices Teodoro R. Padilla and Abraham F. Sarmiento, who both also dissented, with Justice Carolina Griño-Aquino joining us. As I said in my retirement speech later, "that did not mean that the majority was right, only that I was outnumbered."

Prophets

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

DO YOU KNOW "INNER ROW"?

A lot of events unfolding around us, a lot of happenings confronting us now could be understood if we put everything under the perspective of "Inner Row."

What is "Inner Row"?

"Inner Row" is that which comes before Pibrerow, Marsow, Abril, Mayow!

* * *

For a while, I had you there. With "Inner Row," I captured your attention, I led you to a direction, maybe to a smile, maybe to disgust or frustration. Such is the role of prophets—they disturb us, amuse us, confront us and lead us. And precisely because they do that, either we accept them, or, as in today's Gospel (Mk. 6, 1-6), reject them. It is God who raises prophets in our midst at opportune times of our lives, again and again.

* * *

Prophets have a special role in our society. They are not comfortable people to live with as they "disturb" our peace and comfort zones; but it is they who lead us to greater heights and freedom. They often "rock the boat" and shake our foundations. They are the leaven that makes the dough rise, the salt that gives taste, and light that illumines the darkness. A society that stifles and even kills its prophets is a scared, insecure society. Let prophets be. Let prophets live. Let prophets be free.

* * *

Those who are raking in profits naturally do not want prophets. And so they persecute, repress and even eliminate prophets, especially because prophets point to the truth. They panic whenever prophets arise, knowing that the prophets will uncover their cheating and lies. Sorry for them, because, again and again, God will raise men and women of goodwill who will come out and point to righteousness, goodness, justice and truth. Pity the liars, the thieves and the cheats in our midst, they will always be on guard, always scared, always haunted by prophets.

* * *

Listen. We must learn to listen to prophets. We must not just reject or silence them outright. They may sound threatening, amusing, crazy or even stupid, but they carry with them a message, and they point to very clear truths. The life of a prophet is not easy. Ask those who stand for their principles.

How far easier it is to play safe. How far easier it is to feign and pretend just to be in good standing with the powers-that-be. How far easier it is to be one of the attack dogs, all in the name of country, allegiance and duty, but still a dog nonetheless. The bottom line is that we have so few prophets in our society which is so obsessed with worldly profit.

* * *

"What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and in the end lose his soul?" A beautiful reminder for all of us, especially for those who give up their values and principles for the sake of earthly riches, position and power. Is it all worth the while? And your worldly boss, is he/she worth fighting for, dying for? Think again.

* * *

Praying for more prophets from within the ranks of our priests and bishops. Our people need us not just as priests and kings but also as prophets, especially now, in this our present day and time.

* * *

There is an interesting anecdote about a famous surgeon who was asked if he was worried about that point in time when his hands would no longer be steady. His response was that his greatest fear was reaching a time when he'd no longer feel his patients' pain. May we never be callous and insensitive to our people's pains and cries around us. Our people are shouting. Our soldiers are moving. Our prophets are speaking, are we really listening?

* * *

Prophets are God's instruments. By their proclamation of His Word and by their message of purification and salvation, they help form God's people. Not only by their proclamation, but by their very lives, they accomplish their mission, and this they do with much sacrifice. He/she who never experienced suffering and never offered sacrifices is no prophet. We need prophetic not "profitic" leaders to get us out of our mess. Look at our leaders. What have they sacrificed?

* * *

Prophets are "point-ers." They do not point to themselves, but to something or someone greater than themselves. They point at what is wrong in us, so as to draw out the goodness in us. They point to what is, to lead us to what could be. They point to us the broader horizons as we journey on. They point to the Big Picture and remind us again of the "Master Plan." Finally, they point to God speaking to us in the here and now. And what do we do? We often reject them, stifle them, sneer at them. Why? Because they do not share our point of view, or they obscure our view. Praying for more "point-ers." Praying for more prophets. Prophets arise!

* * *

One of the things that make God different from people is that God is always available to listen. (Anonymous) Share your prayer request and personal intentions, text FJREQ<SPACE><name><REQUEST> and send to 2948 for Globe/Sun and 3940 for Smart. God bless you! Mama Mary loves you!

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help us to really listen to you through the modern-day prophets you raise in our midst. Amen.

'Bloody Omaha'

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

LAST MONTH WAS THE 62ND ANNIVERSARY of the Allied landings in Normandy, France. My wife and I are in Geneva for the wedding of our nephew. Earlier, we made a side trip to Paris en route to the World War II invasion sites immortalized in the movies "The Longest Day" and "Saving Private Ryan," an Oscar winner. This visit has always been one of my boyhood dreams. By coincidence, just before the trip, I came across the latest book on the Normandy invasion—"The Secrets of D-Day" by Larry Collins, a former Newsweek Paris bureau chief. Collins quit journalism and partnered full time with French author Dominique Lapierre. The Collins and Lapierre team wrote several international bestsellers: "Is Paris Burning?", "Freedom at Midnight" and "O, Jerusalem." His final work, "Secrets of D-Day," was published only this year by Phoenix Books. CNN's Larry King described it as "the best book I have ever read on the Normandy invasion."

One of the secrets revealed in the book had to do with the code name for the invasion. When it was time to choose one for the operation, the InterService Security Bureau (ISSB)—the organization responsible for assigning and keeping track of code names for allied secret operations—realized that only one code designation was available. This was "Mothball." When bureau personnel presented the matter to Prime Minister Winston Churchill for approval, the old lion was furious and, in a rage, he shouted, "Do you mean to tell me that 50 years from now our grandchildren will be calling the operation that liberated Europe 'Operation Mothball'? I'll pick the name myself." With his cigar pointing at the ceiling, he decided to call the project, "Overlord."

History tells us that the invasion plan called for five landing beaches in the Normandy area: "Utah" and "Omaha" were to be hit by American forces led by Lt. Gen. Omar Bradley; while to the east, British and Canadian units under Lt. Gen. Miles Dempsey were to move into areas designated as "Gold," "Juno" and "Sword." The landings were preceded by airdrops spearheaded by the US 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions and the 6th British Airborne. For the French resistance forces operating inland, a couplet from Paul Verlaine's "Chanson d'automne" (Autumn song) would be the signal by radio for them to start pre-assigned sabotage missions.

Gen. Dwight Eisenhower's orders: "You will enter the continent of Europe and, in conjunction with other United Nations, undertake operations aimed at the heart of Germany and the destruction of her armed forces."

We tend to take for granted the success of allied forces in the Normandy landings, but much of the credit must go to the work of a little-known group, the Double Cross Committee, which carried out Operation Fortitude. This group, made up of representatives of different allied intelligence agencies, fed the Germans with clever misinformation, making them believe that the real invasion would be carried out in the Pas de Calais area just across the English Channel. Under Operation Fortitude, a Spanish double agent, Juan Pujol Garcia code-named "Garbo," slowly was able to gain the confidence of the Germans by providing them from time to time accurate information, though not of high military quality. In fact, just before the Normandy landings, he sent word of the impending assault to the Germans. Forty-eight hours after the landing, he would send a second message warning about a bigger strike at the Pas de Calais area. As a result, the German High Command held their forces here instead of moving them swiftly to counter the Normandy landings. In the words of a senior German officer, "This was the decision that lost the war for Germany." Churchill himself called the success of Operation Fortitude as the "crowning achievement in the long and glorious history of the British Secret Service."

Of the five invasion beaches, Omaha turned out to be the bloodiest. For one thing, US forces went up against the best defensive positions laid out by Field Marshal Rommel. The invasion fleet was anchored 12 miles away, and naval gunfire was less accurate and less destructive. Aerial bombardment was also ineffective due to poor visibility. Over 2,000 GIs died during the initial assault as they were raked by interlocking machine gun fire and by heavy guns from concrete bunkers.

At Colleville-sur-Mer, on a cliff overlooking Omaha beach is the Normandy American Cemetery, home to over 9,000 American casualties from all over Europe, four of whom are women. A total of 173 acres in the Normandy area were ceded in perpetuity by France. Along with the American Cemetery, there are also British, Canadian and German memorials honoring their soldiers who fell in battle. They are gardens of silence and serenity, perhaps, evincing the desire of all nations involved to forgive, if not to forget.

In comparison, the American memorial cemetery located in the Philippines is home to 17,206 US soldiers who perished in the Pacific War, with some 36,000 in the missing rolls. It remains for me one of the most impressive of the memorials established by the United States in honor of their war dead.

We wish to thank Col. Cesar "Ronnie" Ordoyo, our defense attaché in Paris and his assistant, Sgt. Ferdinand Lascano, for the Normandy arrangements. Ronnie, one of the bright, young stars of the Philippine Army, is the son of my classmate Brig. Gen. Rodrigo Ordoyo, who retired as 3rd Infantry Division Commander in Cebu City.

Johnny Depp and calamari too

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THE MAIN STAR OF "PIRATES OF THE Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest" is undoubtedly Johnny Depp as Captain Jack Sparrow, but he is given a run for his star by the "kraken," the giant squid that, when summoned from the depths, hurls hapless crewmen into the air then proceeds to break a ship in half and take it down to the bottom of the sea.

After two-and-a-half hours of "Pirates," you're left with a choice: go for a meal of calamari, or vow never to eat squid again.

After "Cutthroat Island" (1995) scuttled both the marriage of the director (Renny Harlin) and star (Geena Davis), and the future of the studio that bankrolled the screen disaster, things weren't looking good for the pirate movie. Long a beloved movie genre, filled with adventure, action, hijinks, men in tights and frilled shirts, and women with heaving bosoms, the pirate movie—like the Western—was reaching obsolescence when Disney decided in 2003 to venture into the high seas with a film version of their theme ride.

One of the earliest rides in Disneyland, "Pirates of the Caribbean" was one of the few that didn't have a movie tie-in. Customers boarded wooden boats that glided slowly into a cave, then passed by various staged vignettes that portrayed the buccaneer's life, from pirates' lairs to barroom brawls, replete with the usual sound effects and pirate songs. It was all innocent fun and appealed mainly to young children, which explains why, while it was a beloved staple, it wasn't one of the blockbuster attractions.

Maybe that's the reason the folks at Disney decided to "sex up" the pirate ride with its own movie. And what the first version had going for it, first of all, was a familiar "brand," the title "Pirates of the Caribbean," and second, its star Johnny Depp.

* * *

NOBODY quite knew what to expect of Depp in a role that had previously been fleshed out by the likes of Errol Flynn, Douglas Fairbanks, Anthony Quinn and Burt Lancaster. But when he made his appearance as Jack Sparrow, people realized that Depp wasn't going to attack the role with the same macho exuberance as the other Hollywood hunks.

Instead, he chose to give Sparrow a persona that one critic has described as "a cross between Keith Richards and Pepe le Pew." Depp has admitted his debt to Richards (who has been approached to play the role of Sparrow's father in the last movie in the trilogy), who gave the pirate his air of perpetual drunkenness (or a never-ending high) and befuddlement. Pepe le Pew, the ardent skunk suitor in cartoons, can be detected in Sparrow's fey, fastidious manner, and in his overly-courtly behavior toward "the ladies."

Jack Sparrow was quite an amusing, off-kilter character when he first strode onto the screen in the first "Pirates" movie, and he's still quite a hoot in "Dead Man's Chest." But the novelty is fast wearing thin. Depp himself (or the writers) seems to be developing some sympathy for the pirate, for Sparrow is less smarmy and manipulative in this second outing. I don't know how fans like him, but I personally prefer the dark side of Jack Sparrow.

* * *

STILL, there's much more to recommend "Dead Man's Chest" than Depp's amusing pirate. There's Orlando Bloom and Keira Knightley as the lovers Will and Elizabeth, whose wedding is disrupted when they are arrested and jailed and then ordered to search the seas for Jack Sparrow in exchange for their release.

There's Davy Jones (an unrecognizable Bill Nighy) and the crew of "The Flying Dutchman," who all look like walking, talking sea creatures. Perhaps to show how everyone aboard the legendary ship has been enslaved by the sea, they all bear markings of the ocean world. Jones himself has been turned into a squishy squid with lobster claws, while his crew bears barnacles, shells, fins, and one even sports the head of a hammerhead shark. I'm betting on a "Best in Makeup" Oscar for the movie's design crew.

Naomi Harris also does a memorable turn as Tia Dalma, a voodoo priestess with the power to bring the dead to life and a host of counter-remedies for various curses and hexes.

Director Gore Verbinski reportedly shot the third "Pirates" movie at the same time as he did "Dead Man's Chest" (emulating LOTR), and the second installment amply lays the ground and the premise for what will follow. Even then, the movie could very well stand on its own.

Bring all of these elements and blend them with funny and rip-roaring side trips to an island populated by a tribe of cannibals, the seedy premises of a saloon in Tortuga, a buried treasure, and the swamps of a voodoo island—and you get two-and-a-half hours of fun and frolic. Just don't let your thoughts and your love for story structure get in the way of your enjoyment. Go with the flow and let Jack Sparrow lead the way!

* * *

WOMEN in Bliss Writers' Circle, a group of women who participated in a series of writing workshops with the multi-awarded poet and author Aida F. Santos, is launching its recently published anthology titled "Unveiling: Pieces From Bliss" with shows that feature their works in song and dance and in dramatic readings. The anthology showcases the prose and poetry of the women, reflecting their "kaleidoscopic experiences of life, love and womanhood."

The first show, with the theme "Love, Loss and Healing" was launched yesterday, while another volume, on the theme "Erotika, Living the 'L' Life: Part 2" will be launched on July 22, at 8 p.m. at Newsdesk Café, Scout Tobias corner Scout Madrinan Streets, near Tomas Morato Avenue, Quezon City.

Invited guests include Santos and other notable personalities in the women's movement. For more details about Women In Bliss Writers' Circle, visit http://womeninbliss.orgfree.com.

Will the Church back off?

COMMENTARY

Asuncion David Maramba

DO NOT BE SURPRISED. EXPECT AT LEAST two sectors to continually invoke the separation of Church and State principle whenever the Church shows signs of political intervention. Track the statements and actions of bishops and priests, and it is no surprise that politicians begin to worry about them.

These politicians are the first ones to play dumb about the meaning of the "Separation Principle" so they can interpret it as may be convenient for them. If they really want to understand the principle, there is an excellent column on the subject. Written by Fr. Joaquin Bernas, S.J., it appeared in the April 17, 2006 issue of the INQUIRER. Its title: "Churchmen and Charter change." Almost like a nag, in the Feb. 6, 2006 issue of the INQUIRER, I wrote a call "to study the Separation Principle" because the increasingly politicized times called for it.

But why bother to study, the politicians may say. The principle is a good whipping dog. Flog it for all its worth. Besides, their outrage may fool many people or frighten some churchmen.

The second group is composed of the conservatives in both the lay and religious sectors, who fervently believe that priests belong "inside" the Church for proper "Church activities" that are defined and confined by the "faith and morals" box that is now bursting at the seams.

Their views are backed, nay, lived by a huge Catholic population, reared in a religious culture still obsessed with "saving their souls" and "going to heaven"—an obsession that is the offspring of the centuries-old dichotomy of body and soul, and the parent of the "split-level Christian."

Aiming to become more and more religious with eyes firmly "fixed on heaven," the conservatives and their followers unwittingly abet a world going to the dogs. Political involvement is not for these people. That has little to do with the soul. Their compartmentalized outlook and lifestyle haven't done the Church much good.

It is not surprising that the two sectors will always cry "separation." It would be surprising if they did not. Instead of losing one's cool with them, let them be and do what's to be done.

Now, the glaring development that still escapes many or that many escape from is that the world has turned 180 degrees, becoming complicated and convoluted in so many fronts. Connecting with this world demands more study and sophistication, not to mention openness to change.

The Church has always prided herself as an institution that knows how to respond to history; but sometimes she moves ever so slowly, too carefully perhaps, which is the case with any "establishment."

But as Fr. Carlos Abesamis, S.J. pointed out in an article—if God is interested in the whole person, not just souls; and His blessings are for human beings, not just for souls (as we suspected even when we were drummed with the superiority of the soul); and that the Kingdom of God is not just "up there" but in a new world here on earth with life blessings for all (Your Kingdom come … on earth," as the "The Lord's Prayer" goes); then the ballgame changes.

First, works for the Kingdom cannot just be for the soul, or for that matter, just for the purpose of going to heaven. The Church has to go afield, on earth, wherever the total human being needs help and guidance. Two thousand years ago, Jesus did exactly that. He went to and helped people where they were hurting. If He had to fight the system for them, He would, and that was the reason He was stalked to death. How political could one get?

Second, because of the march of civilization and history, today's works for the Kingdom, as Father Abesamis noted, cannot be quite as simple as those in Jesus' time: "help for the sick, joy for the poor, liberty for the prisoners, release of slaves, cancellation of debts, food for the hungry," etc. More or less, these have come down to us as the "spiritual and corporal works of mercy" that comfortable priests in comfortable parishes and many church workers engage in. By all means, such acts are badly needed, but they are not the only works for the Kingdom.

Today's "Kingdom-works" must probe and strike deeper, into the very root of social and moral malaise if the Church aims to help reform society and not just give it relief. The tandem of social justice and poverty is entangled with economics and politics. How, Father Rebelo wrote, can the Church help the poor without taking socio-political stands? The tandem of marriage and family is now so indeterminate that no one can say one size fits all. Concerns raised by science, media, the environment cannot be solved by another devotion.

The Church is formidably challenged. Like any professional, every priest should keep up with at least the Church's expertise which is Theology. To say the least, developments and even changes here are quite exciting. Moral Theology, for example, deserves re-study even if recent findings may raise eyebrows. Much of ecclesiology is subject to discussion. Surely, seminary theology can use some updating. The priest can no longer go back to the sacristy.

Wedges will be driven between the Pope and our bishops (if Benedict XVI said "well done" to GMA, who are the bishops to say "not well done"?); between bishops and bishops (CBCP "backs" Bishop Iñiguez; CBCP "split" on impeachment case); between bishops and priests (take a sabbatical, says bishop to activist priest). Will the Church back off? That is exactly what the "separatists" want.

Asuncion David Maramba is a retired professor, book editor and occasional journalist. Comments to marda_ph@yahoo.com; fax 8210659

The house of birds

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

CARIGARA, LEYTE—IN A FARAWAY PLACE, SO FAR THAT you cannot reach it, so hidden that you cannot find it, there is a town. In that town there is a street, in the street there is a house, in the house there is a room, in the room there is a nest, in the nest is a bird, in the bird is an egg, and in the egg is a story.

Sorry, I couldn't resist. Let me try again: In Carigara, Leyte, along San Roque Street, there is an old house propped up by wooden stilts. The house, a sprawling, rambling structure cupped by glorious greenery, belongs to Manang Lumen's family, the woman I had come to interview, who sells straight out of her kitchen what is rumored to be the best *pastillas* this side of the country.

I clamber up the wooden stair boards, making way for a chicken that got there first. (I'm as polite as that.) Up to the landing, through the front door, then left into the living room—and then I stop short.

The first thing that hits me is the sound—the twittering conversation of a hundred little birds and the whoosh of a hundred beating black wings. They swoop in and out of the capiz windows, zipping through the air like missiles gone mad. They're called swifts, or *balinsasayaw*. Each corner of the ceiling is studded with their nests, hairy little cocoons, made of bird saliva. The nests are tiny—the size of a pudgy toddler's fist—and arranged with the regularity of box seats in an opera house. I half-expect miniature creatures of the undead or monster killer-locusts to start struggling out, but there were only the blurs of black diving in and out of the nests. Sometimes a little dark head peers out; mostly, all that can be seen are wings, black feathers fluttering like a video on fast-forward.

Beside me sits a cat. It looks at the birds the same way I've seen my guy pals look at a new FHM on the magazine stand. It's an old room in an old house, much, much older than anyone living there today. The wood of wall and window has already faded into a comfortable grey. There are jagged holes in the ceiling, great gaping rips that expose the house's sturdy wood skeleton. The cats, says Manang Lumen, are responsible for the destruction, sneaking into the roof and shredding wood in an attempt to grab at the poor birds. The swifts, however, are not without allies. Their champion sits on the steps: a black-and-brown dog with serious eyes and hair teased in tufts and clumps all over his back, looking as if he had grown feathers in sympathy for the murdered birds.

I feel like Alice after she fell into the rabbit hole, except that instead of meeting Tweedledeedum, Tweedledeedee and the Mad Hatter, I meet a combination of butcher, baker, and *pastillas*-maker, all of whom seem to believe that keeping birds in your living room is as normal as having a pet dog for Junior.

And then in the house in San Roque, where the green is brighter than any green in Manila, where laundry shares space with piles of driftwood for burning and a family of chickens peck at the ground, I suddenly find myself strangely at home.

Pico Iyer, my favorite travel writer, calls traveling a conspiracy of perception and imagination. We experience a story or a movie based on our own experiences. When we travel, no matter how we wonder at the strangeness and exoticism of our "discoveries," there must be something that calls to us. We carry our homes with us. "What we find outside ourselves has to be inside ourselves for us to find it."

I meet Mang Benjamin—Manang Lumen's husband—in the kitchen supervising the baking: a tall, dark man with a strong face and kindly eyes. He wears battered old shorts, his shirt hiked over his stomach as a concession to the heat. He is everywhere at once, but there is never any sense of haste—there is deliberation in his actions, every word he speaks is no more than absolutely necessary. As he counts out milk containers, hefts trays and checks on the workers' progress, I am abruptly in Manila, in my mother's kitchen, sitting on the telephone table while scarfing down a piece of chocolate cake.

My mother runs a catering service out of the kitchen. Dad's place is usually there, in the thick of things, undershirt hiked over his stomach, all skinny legs and calm command; a counterpoint to my mother's bustling. He stands on the red tile floor, asking if the salads are packed and whether there are enough eggs for the pies for the Sunday bazaar in Quezon Circle. He carts everything to the car, prepares change, calculates costs and demand, taste-tests the sauces and insists that the cooks prepare *kare-kare* because he thinks it's bound to sell. He's rarely wrong. And when Mang Benjamin, this most manly of men, says without embarrassment that he was never particularly interested in cooking, only that he'll do whatever will feed his family, I can hear my Dad saying the same thing.

When I ask Manang Lumen for an interview, she blushes, smiles, then sneaks off to change into a peach flower-printed pantsuit. Her husband sits down on the bench, still in shorts and a shirt thin from a thousand washings, and waits for his wife. I remember someone asking my mother for an interview, and her frantic dash into her bedroom only to pop out 20 minutes later in floral orange-and-white trousers, an orange blouse and her favorite orange coral hoop earrings. In the same way she has a tendency to mother every child who comes into her house—anyone under the age of 90—so does Manang Lumen as she rushes in with a white lace tablecloth, plates of warm, newly made *pastillas* and glasses of cold Coke.

So I lean over the capiz windows in a wooden house along San Roque Street, eating cake while surrounded by peeping birds and sly cats—feeling myself in Manila and Leyte all at once. As Sir Thomas Browne said, "We carry within us the wonders we seek without us."

In a place not so faraway, accessible by bus, by car, or by taxicab from the MRT, there is a small village called Talayan. In that village there is a street, in that street there is a house, in that house there is a room, and in that room is my mother, wielding a wooden spoon and a bowl of *tinola*, and a man with skinny legs and kindly eyes in a strong face.

In every journey, there is a story within a story and this is mine.

* * *

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TALK of the TOWN

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Editor **Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.**

Sex education in public schools

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION DECIDED TO WITHDRAW THE LESSON plans for "adolescent reproductive health" that it had distributed to two national high schools in Metro Manila for pilot testing after pro-life and Catholic groups voiced objections.

The objections raised by Prolife Philippines are based on sex education modules used by the education department in the 1980s and 1990s that it claims promoted "secular sex education."

The group also points to a textbook that required Grade 5 pupils to bring condoms, eggplants, cucumbers and bananas to class. The vegetables and fruits were supposed to be used as props in class where the children were to be taught how to use a condom.

Another group, Human Life International, says the DepEd lesson plans may encourage premarital sex. It maintains that parents, not teachers, should be responsible for teaching children about sex.

Denying it is promoting sex before marriage, the education department says it merely seeks to provide adolescents with information to help them understand their sexuality and protect them from unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases.

Knowledge can save lives. Ignorance, usually, cannot.

'Reproductive health needs of adolescents largely ignored'

By Alcuin Papa

IT'S HIGH TIME PUBLIC schools provide adolescents with the right information on their sexuality as more and more of them are getting involved in sexual activities, says the Department of Education.

"If you have children who you feel are being influenced so much by their environment and developments in technology, we should really guide them because they might get the wrong information from somewhere anyway," says DepEd Officer in Charge Fe Hidalgo.

Assistant Secretary Vilma Labrador says sex education is "certainly needed" by the youth because sexuality is part of the "realities of life."

Total well-being

Both Labrador and Hidalgo say the inclusion of sex education in the public school curriculum is part of the department's involvement in the total well-being of students.

"We in education are concerned not only with the (youth's) physical changes but also with their spiritual (needs)—the formation of values," Labrador explains.

Lolita Andrada, director of the Bureau of Secondary Education (BSE), notes that a distinction should be made between "sex education" and teaching youngsters to be more aware of their sexuality.

"It's more of sexuality education rather than sex education. Everyone is calling it sex education except DepEd. We are not teaching the children how to have sex. We are teaching them about sexuality, how to take care of their bodies and how to respect others' sexuality as well," says Andrada.

She points out that the environment of today's youth "is vastly different, more challenging and fraught with risks."

Objection

Despite its seemingly good intentions, DepEd has found itself going up against the Catholic Church on the issue.

Dr. Angelita Aguirre of Human Life International, a pro-life group, wrote DepEd to express her objections to a lesson plan for "adolescent reproductive health."

Aguirre says the lesson plan, titled "Lesson Guides on Adolescent Reproductive Health," is "devoid of full disclosure" because it fails to inform students that condom use does not offer full protection from sexually transmitted diseases.

Aguirre says the module might give students the wrong impression because it indirectly promotes premarital sex.

"It (teaching module) claims to foster values, restraint and responsibility, yet it implies that sexual activity outside of marriage may be acceptable as long as it does not result in unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted (disease) through 'protected sex,'" she says.

Parents and not teachers, according to her, should be responsible for teaching youngsters about sex.

The complaint prompted the department to withdraw the lesson plans, which had already been distributed to two pilot schools in Metro Manila—the Parañaque National High School and Pateros National High School.

Say no to PMS

Hidalgo says DepEd does not promote "premarital sex" in the lesson plan.

"What we are doing is telling them (the youth) the consequences of such acts and what should be done. We are more suggestive in tone. Government does not encourage that and we are trying to teach students to say no (to premarital sex)," she says.

Through the modules, DepEd hopes students in public schools will have a "good foundation so they know how to make decisions," says Labrador. "If they have a good foundation, they will know the right moment. They will know when to decide and what is right. We want to teach them to value their body."

Andrada, who was part of the editorial board that drafted the lesson plan, says the time is ripe to take a "proactive approach."

She cited a nationwide survey of 20,000 respondents by the University of the Philippines Population Institute, titled the "Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Survey III," that found an increasing number of adolescents engaging in premarital sex and risky sexual behavior. *(See tables and chart.)*

"We were guided by the survey, and the statistics are alarming," Andrada says. "We need to do something."

The survey also found that the number of young people who had sexual encounters was lower for those who were in school than that for out-of-school youth. "That indicates that the school plays a vital role in the formation of values related to this issue," Andrada says.

Hidalgo acknowledges that parents must be involved in teaching their children about sexuality. "We agree that ideally, it's the parents who should be explaining these things to students. But we think it should be a collaborative effort," she says.

"Looking after our children is our responsibility, though parents are the primary teachers. In our schools, we want our children to be guided accordingly," Labrador says.

What's the fuss?

Melinda Rivera and Rosalie Masilang, BSE researchers who helped draft the lesson plan, wonder why a big fuss is being made of the lesson plan.

They recall that as far back as 1972, the education department already had a module for sex education in elementary and high school. In the module, the teacher was guided to integrate certain concepts related to sex education and population development into the appropriate subject in the appropriate year level.

For example, a discussion on family life and the advantages and disadvantages of family planning may be included in social studies classes. Issues of sexually transmitted diseases can be tackled in science classes. Issues on relationships can also be topics for values education classes, and so on.

Model in Asia

The first lesson plans during this period tackled concepts like family life, responsible sexual behavior and responsible parenthood. While family planning was a part of module, Masilang, who taught the module in the past, says teachers steered clear of making "value judgments" on issues like large family sizes.

"We only explained to them the advantages and disadvantages of large or small family sizes," she explains.

In fact, the module became so successful that it was used as a model for other Asian countries like Thailand, China and Japan, according to Rivera and Masilang.

In 1994, the module was revised to include other issues like women empowerment, gender development, gender stereotypes, gender roles, gender equality and how traditional gender roles no longer apply, says Rivera.

The module at that time also explained briefly what is now DepEd's "adolescent reproductive health" (ARH) concept. In ARH, the students learned about issues like sexually transmitted infections (STI) as well as issues on premarital sex and how the student can take steps to take care of his or her body.

This year, the module was revised as the "Lesson Plan on Adolescent Reproductive Health" and tackled premarital sex and STIs head on.

"The focus here was for the students to learn about making decisions, setting priorities and solving problems related to these issues. We wanted to provide the appropriate and accurate information for adolescents to deal with problems and issues," Andrada explains.

Rivera and Masilang agree that through the years, the module was revised expertly "to adapt to the changing times."

In her foreword to the lesson plan, Hidalgo says the lessons were "carefully crafted so they will naturally blend" with the subjects. "While these are prototype lesson plans, the activities are suggestive, not prescriptive."

Revision

Hidalgo has ordered a review and revision of the current lesson plan after a meeting with representatives of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines and a conversation with Pampanga Archbishop Paciano Aniceto.

"We are open to suggestions if it will help to better promote and teach proper reproductive health among today's youth. We also recognize that there are other stakeholders who are actively involved in the education of our young," says Hidalgo.

Labrador insists that DepEd is bent on distributing the lesson plan to public schools. "We want to listen to all sectors. We will then evaluate (these comments) and find ways to deliver the goods," she said.

Hidalgo's foreword summed up the importance of the lesson plan and the teaching of ARH in schools.

"Reproductive health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being. It is a common observation, however, that the reproductive health needs of adolescents as a group have been largely ignored to date by reproductive health service providers.

"Reproductive health needs of this group should be based on information that helps them attain a level of maturity required to make responsible decisions.

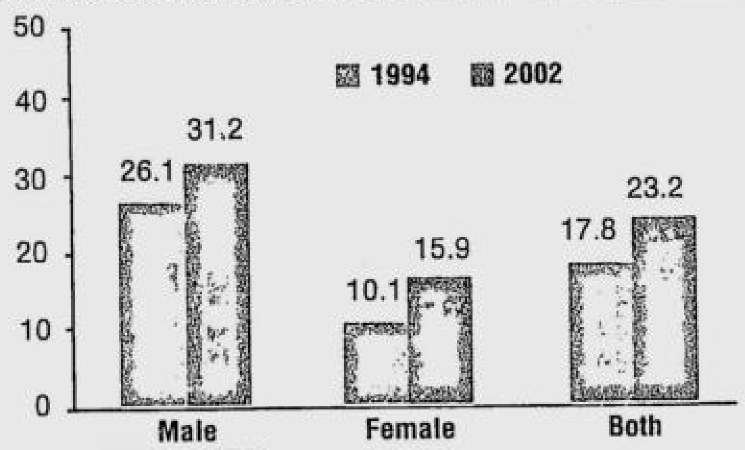
"Information and services should be made available to adolescents to help them understand their sexuality and protect them from unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections and subsequent risk of infertility," says Hidalgo.

(Papa is an INQUIRER reporter covering the education beat.)

SEXUALITY EDUCATION

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ/PAGE DESIGN AND INQGRAPHIC BY ERNIE SAMBO

Youths with premarital sex experience (in percent)



SOURCE: UP POPULATION INSTITUTE

Topics covered in 7 countries

Netherlands Primary and secondary levels (starts at age 4)	● Reproductive anatomy ● Sexuality ● Contraception ● Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) ● Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)/ Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)
France Secondary levels (starts at age 13)	● Reproductive anatomy and physiology ● STDs ● HIV/AIDS
United States Grades 7-9	● Information on body growth and development ● Reproductive systems ● Dating and setting limits ● Abstinence and refusal skills ● Pregnancy and parenting ● STDs (including HIV)
Canada Primary and secondary levels	● Human sexuality ● Puberty ● Sexual well-being ● Birth control ● STDs ● HIV/AIDS
Japan Upper grade elementary students, junior and senior high school	● Human sexuality ● HIV/AIDS
Uganda[A] Upper primary school (starts at age 10)	● Sexual health ● Safe sexual behaviors ● HIV/AIDS
Thailand Primary and secondary (starts age at 7)	● Human sexuality ● Relationships ● Sexual behavior ● STDs ● HIV/AIDS

[A] test run from 1994 to 1996

COMPILED BY: KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH

Premarital sex (PMS) among people aged 15-24

	Male	Female	Both
Premarital sex (%)			
Had premarital sex	31.2	15.9	23.2
Mean age at first sex	17.0	18.0	18.0
Relationship to first PMS partner (%)			
Fiance/fiancee	(0.3)	7.0	2.7
GF/BF/"ka-on"	59.7	90.2	70.4
Friend/"kabarkada"	17.1	1.6	11.6
Acquaintance	14.5	(0.4)	9.6
None	8.4	0.8	5.7
Contraceptive use (%)			
Used contraception during first PMS	27.6	14.5	21.0
Used contraception during last/only PMS	27.3	22.3	25.5
Friends having PMS (%)			
Know of unmarried female friends who had sex	42.2	44.4	43.4
Know of unmarried male friends who had sex	63.5	42.9	53.4

SOURCE: 2002 YOUNG ADULT FERTILITY AND SEXUALITY SURVEY, UP POPULATION INSTITUTE

Risky sexual behavior

	Male	Female	Both
Multiple partners (%)			
Had more than one PMS partner	50.0	9.1	35.2
Mean number of sexual partners	4.1	2.8	4.0
Had extramarital sex*	8.8	1.1	2.9
Paid for sex (%)			
Ever paid for sex among all respondents	6.4	0.0	-
Mean age when first paid for sex	18	0.0	-
Used condom during sex	49.6	0.0	-
Received payment for sex (%)			
Ever been paid for sex among all respondents	3.9	0.1	1.9
Mean age when first received payment for sex	18	16	18
Used condom during sex	36.2	(66.7)	36.8
Same sex (%):			
Went steady with someone of same sex	1.3	2.7	1.9
Had sex with someone of same sex*	15.1	3.6	11.1

*AMONG THOSE IN UNION *AMONG THOSE SEXUALLY ACTIVE RESPONDENTS -NO DATA

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SUERTRES 5 5 4
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Maguindanao evacuees won't go home

COTABATO CITY—MAGUINDANAO RESIDENTS displaced by the weeklong skirmishes between militiamen controlled by Gov. Andal Ampatuan and Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels refused to go home, a ranking official of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) said.

Ruby Sahali-Tan, ARMM social welfare secretary, said the evacuees, now numbering more than 30,000, fear that the hostilities were not over yet.

Ampatuan has ordered the militiamen to fall back after a meeting with Presidential Peace Adviser Jesus Dureza and MILF representatives on Friday.

During that meeting, Ampatuan and the MILF signed a declaration of no offensive movement, according to Dureza.

But Tan said the situation remained volatile because militias and rebels occasionally fired at each other.

"The people are afraid to return home because every now and then, both parties are trading gunfire. There was no truce because they are still fighting in the area," she said.

The clashes started on June 28 when militiamen tried to serve warrants on two MILF leaders blamed for the June 23 roadside bomb attack that killed at least seven people in Shariff Aguak.

Both the police and the Ampatuans said the explosion was aimed at the Maguindanao governor, who has escaped several attempts on his life.

The clashes later spread to four more towns near Shariff Aguak.

Tan said the situation in evacuation centers was getting worse because of sanitation problems that could lead to illnesses especially among the children.

But she said the situation was even worse for some 780 people trapped in Barangay Tapikan in Shariff Aguak, who were identified as dependents of MILF guerrillas.

She said while relief goods and medicines were served to evacuees in various evacuation centers, those in Tapikan had yet to get assistance.

"We did not cover them because we have no security clearance to go there," Tan said.

Maguindanao police chief Senior Supt. Lumala Gunting said MILF rebels fired mortar rounds shortly after the agreement was signed but nobody was harmed.

"I cannot get the logic. We just agreed in front of the International Monitoring Team and government negotiators regarding the no-offensive movement and then they launched another attack," Gunting told the INQUIRER.

But MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said their forces had not fired a single mortar shell since the agreement was signed on Friday.

He said the MILF suspected that a third party was responsible for the mortar attack and was trying to instigate more violence.

"There should be an investigation before they blame it to us," Kabalu said. *Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ALBANO FUNERAL
Thousands of Isabela folk witness the funeral of Ilagan Mayor Delfinito Albano on July 6.
VILLAMOR VISAYA JR./PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Church steps up search for image

By Melvin Gascon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAYOMBONG, NUEVA VIZCAYA—CATHOLIC Church officials here have intensified their search for the missing 18th century image of Saint Vincent Ferrer, which was stolen from the church's bell tower in Dupax del Sur town.

Fr. Romulo Felix, chancellor of the Diocese of Bayombong, said they have sought the help of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) to search for the statue, which was believed stolen from its platform sometime in May.

Church officials, however, could not state the exact date when the image was stolen.

"It could not be easily seen from its former location. Nobody thought it would be stolen because it was only made of concrete," Felix said.

He, however, admitted that the saint's statue was a valuable cultural heritage because of its antiquity.

The two-foot stone image, which rests on a concrete decorative pedestal about 10 feet high on the façade of the belfry, was believed made during the same period as the church's construction.

Built in 1767, the Saint Vincent Ferrer Church in Barangay Dopaj was declared a "national cultural treasure" by the NCCA and is one of the oldest Catholic churches in Northern Luzon.

The church houses a brick bell tower with an underground museum where centuries-old church artifacts are found. It also features a baptistery and pillars of the narthex (a low projection at the western end of a church, like a porch) covered with finely carved stucco (a cement mixture used for siding).

The disappearance of the image has puzzled the local police after local Church leaders failed to report the incident immediately after it was discovered missing.

Quoting reports from the Dupax del Sur police, acting provincial police director Senior Supt. Rogelio Damazo suspected that Church workers might be involved in the disappearance of the image.

But Fr. Resty Lopez of Dupax del Sur said they did not immediately report the incident because Church leaders hoped that the image would be still returned.

Police officials suspected that Church personnel themselves were involved in the heist, as they had access to the belfry.

"The tower is quite high and [Church workers] were the only ones who had access to it. What is surprising is that they did not even report the matter to the police and my assessment is that they are concealing some information," Damazo quoted Dupax del Sur police chief Chief Insp. Marvin Follante as saying.

But Lopez denied this, saying Follante may not have been aware where the statue was located before it was stolen.

"Anybody could have accessed it. The thieves could have just stood on top of any vehicle and they could have easily reached the statue," Lopez said.

Daughter begs Palparan to show her father

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—LORENA LIPIO, 14, made one wish on Saturday. She wanted to see her father, Emerlito, alive.

"*Ilitaw na sana ng militar at pulis ang tatay ko* (I hope the military and the police would show my father)," the girl said, sobbing as she talked to the INQUIRER by phone from their house in San Jose del Monte City in Bulacan.

Lorena said she has not seen him for almost a week since soldiers and policemen seized him on July 3 in Angeles City with five other transport sector organizers and a house owner.

Mercedita, Emerlito's wife, said Lorena has been crying every night since then. Lorena is their only child.

What they last know of what happened to Emerlito, 41, was based on the accounts of William Aguilar, a staff member of the Workers Alliance of Region III and one of those arrested in a house in Barangay Malabanias.

"William said he and Emerlito were put in one van together on Monday night. They were taken to a house but kept in separate rooms. He said he heard my husband crying in pain and begging for mercy," Mercedita, 45, said.

Aguilar and Archie de Jesus, the house owner, were freed without charges on July 4 and 5, respectively, according to Sr. Cecile Ruiz, Central Luzon chair of the human rights advocate Karapatan.

Jose Ramos, Jose Bernardino, Fernando Poblacion Jr. and Jay Francis Aquino—all organizers of the transport group Piston—were charged with illegal possession of explosives and were out on bail.

Except for De Jesus, all six men are leaders of Piston's regional council.

"They were illegally arrested, tortured and jailed," said Ruiz, referring to the actions of the members of the Army's 56th Infantry Battalion, 69th IB and the Angeles City police.

Ruiz said the commanders of those units and their top official, Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, chief of the 7th Infantry Division, were "answerable for the violation of human rights committed against the seven victims."

Mercedita said she saw no reason why the military and the police would hold her husband longer.

"We're afraid for his safety. We're worried. We want to see him now," she said.

Military sources said Palparan has taken custody of Emerlito. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Warring parties urged: Respect rules

LUCENA CITY—EXPECTING HEIGHTENED armed hostilities between government forces and the communist New People's Army rebels due to President Macapagal-Arroyo's order to crush the insurgents in the next two years, the International Humanitarian Law National Committee of the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC-IHLNC) called on the armed protagonists to respect the international rules on armed conflict.

In a statement, the PNRC-IHLNC challenged the state's security forces and the NPA rebels to adhere to and respect their commitments to the rules of war, for the sake of the people and communities in the countryside.

"Do your respective internal security or revolutionary jobs, missions or tasks, if you have to, but respect IHL in doing it. In turn, you will gain the high moral ground and respect of the people," the group told the armed protagonists in an e-mailed statement sent by lawyer Soliman Santos, a member of the PNRC-IHLNC.

The group added: "Military targets are targeted militarily; civilian/political targets should not."

The PNRC-IHLNC maintained that in a time of all-out war the best call is still for an all-out peace or at least a return to the mode of peace negotiations.

"But there is also the reality like now where one or both sides of a conflict, for reasons or dynamics of their own, would rather wage war than talk peace," the group said.

The group noted that the orders, whether for all-out war or intensified tactical offensives, have been given by both warring protagonists.

"It seems that the unleashed dogs of war can no longer be restrained or pulled back in the foreseeable near future," said the peace advocates.

The PNRC-IHLNC lamented that the continuous exchange of war pitch is now focused on the "unavoidable collateral damage" to civilians who will surely be caught in the crossfire.

"In this worst-case scenario, there should at least be an all-out respect for human rights and international humanitarian law, i.e. the law on armed conflict which protects civilians and which limits the means and methods of warfare," the PNRC-IHLNC said.

"It has been said that IHL helps pave the road to peace by promoting humanity in time of war (Inter Armas Caritas). By respecting the basic rights and dignity of all, the fighting forces help build mutual trust that enhances the chances for a peaceful settlement," the group stressed.

Last month, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the release of P1 billion for the military and the police to finish off the NPA, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, which has been waging a guerrilla war for nearly four decades. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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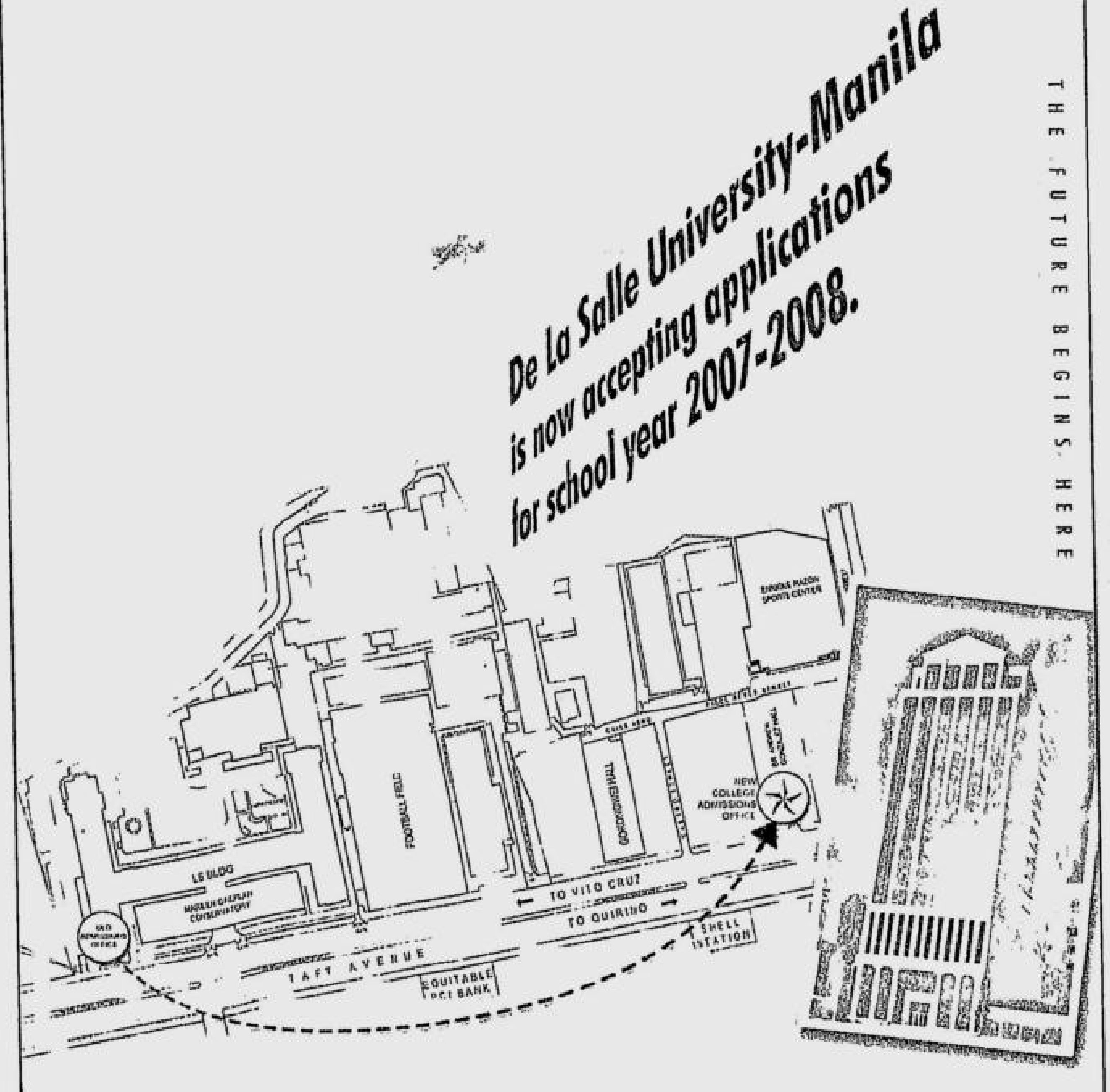

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INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jun Bandayrel
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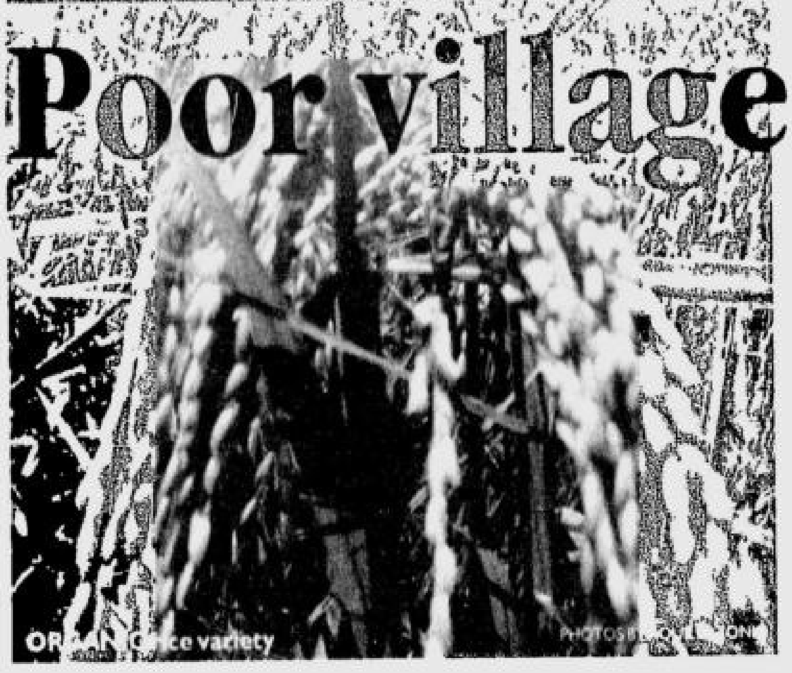
Poor village adopts organic farming



ORGANIC rice variety

By Aquiles Zonio
Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat

TWO YEARS AGO, THE DIOCESE OF MARBEL, 206 KM FROM PALimbang, Sultan Kudarat, sent Fr. Greto Bugas to handle the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Milbuk, a farming and fishing village.

Bugas has lived up to his name, which has even given profound meaning and relevance to his advocacy for food sustainability.

"*Bugas*" is the Visayan term for "rice."

Some call it a coincidence. Farmers say it was God's way of liberating His people from poverty and neglect.

Upon his arrival, Bugas noticed the stark realities confronting the farmers—impoverished, disorganized, indebted and powerless. Most of them are small landowners tilling no bigger than two hectares of rice field each.

The first thing the priest did was to activate the Social Action Center (SAC) of the Milbuk parish. He then coordinated with the diocesan SAC in order to establish links with nongovernment organizations involved in helping farmers.

Bugas was introduced to Valeriano Santillan, a farm technician and provincial chair of the Magsasaka at Siyentipiko sa Pag-unlad ng Agrikultura (Masipag) in South Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat. Masipag is a farmer-scientist partnership that promotes development of farmers through a propoor, sustainable approach.

The first training on organic farming was held in February 2004, but it attracted only 29 farmers from nearby villages of Milbuk, Kanipaan and San Roque. Only nine trainees persisted in practicing what they learned.

Bugas said that, at first, the farmers failed to grasp the importance of organic farming. But he was determined. He initiated a baseline survey, which showed that conventional farming was much destructive to the environment and expensive compared to organic farming.

Eye-opener

The success of the nine farmers opened the eyes of other residents. Eventually, their number grew.

Bugas organized the Association of Sustainable Agriculture Practitioners of Palimbang (Asapp), a core group of farmers practicing and propagating organic farming.

Led by its acting chair Leonardo Ganotice, 49, Asapp now has 200 members in 15 of the 42 villages in Palimbang.

Since she began shifting to organic farming, Meldrecita Bayudan, 43, claimed her expenses on agricultural inputs, labor and land preparation in her 1.74-hectare farm drastically dropped from P15,000 to P2,480 per cropping.

While conventional and organic farming techniques have almost the same yields, she said that by going organic, she was able to save more money, time and effort.

Bayudan said she took over the heavy work in the farm after her husband got ill four years ago. Her new farming method eased her burden, she said.

The Bayudans abandoned conventional farming after three consecutive harvests flopped.

Ganotice, who had been a conventional farmer for 20 years, said he used to spend P30,000 to P40,000 per cropping in his five-hectare farm. When he started adopting organic, he just spent about P10,000.

"For seeds alone, I used to spend P19,200 to buy 16 bags of 15-kilo hybrid rice seed. In organic farming, I was able to save because seeds were given free," Ganotice said.

Half of his farm area yielded 169 cavans of rice, all delivered to a financier as payment for his debt of more than P100,000.

"I had been deep in debt, but I'm confident that I would be able to pay them in due time. The important thing is, my health is not wasted by work and chemicals," Ganotice, an electrical engineering graduate, said in Filipino.

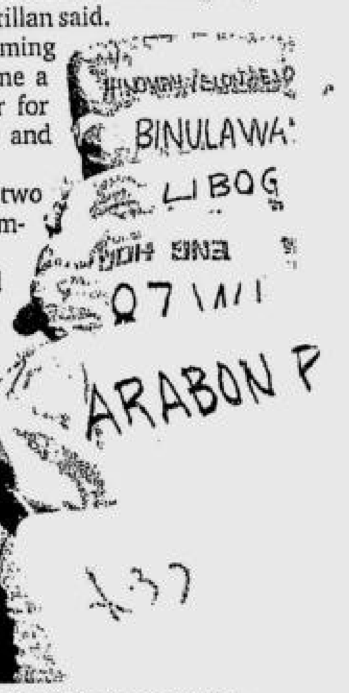
By doing away with chemicals, the farmers are protecting nature and all living organisms in the soil, Santillan said.

Organic farming has also become a unifying factor for Christians and Muslims.

Asapp has two Muslim members—Ishmael Pasaporte and Harry Mulod—who are active in all activities, particularly in convincing other farmers to shift to organic farming.

Mulod said that by joining the cooperative, his eyes were opened to the utmost importance of unity in achieving their goal.

"We were oriented on how to focus on our commonalities not on our differences as Christians and Muslims," he said. "Organic farming helped bridge the gap created by wars and cultural differences."



SOME indigenous rice varieties harvested by farmers in Palimbang.

Reviving 'bayanihan'

Members practicing organic farming have revived that long-cherished yet vanishing "*bayanihan*" spirit of helping one another to make work in the field easier and exciting. About 30 members can be seen working in the field at one time.

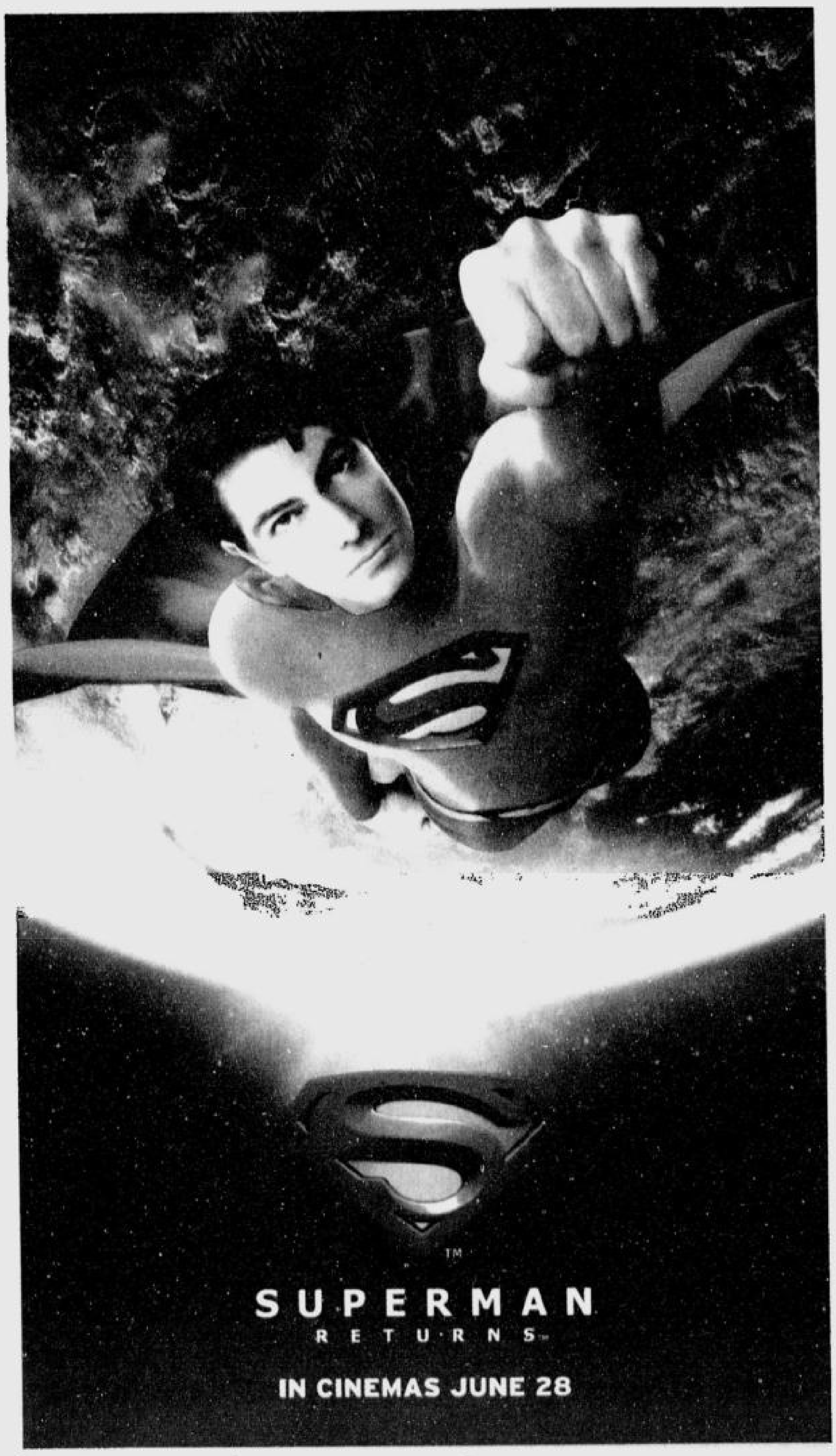
Though organic farming is still on its trial stage, many farmers are already upbeat about it.

Out of more than 10,000 hectares of land conducive to rice-growing in Palimbang, only 50 hectares have been used for organic farming. The trial farms will serve as seed banks where indigenous rice varieties are tested and propagated.

The cooperative has already discovered 15 to 20 indigenous rice varieties.

Tests will be continued to determine which varieties are best suited for the type of soil in the locality, Santillan said. By doing so, he said, highly resistant varieties could be developed while maximizing rice production in the area.

Organic farming, he said, would be in full swing in the next cropping season.



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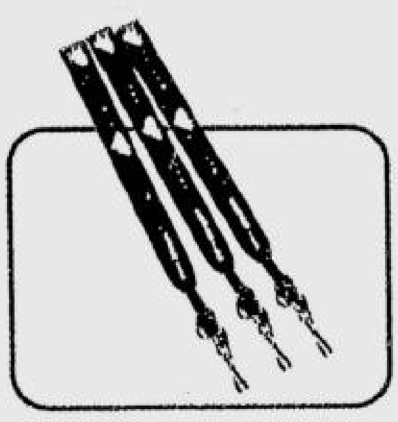

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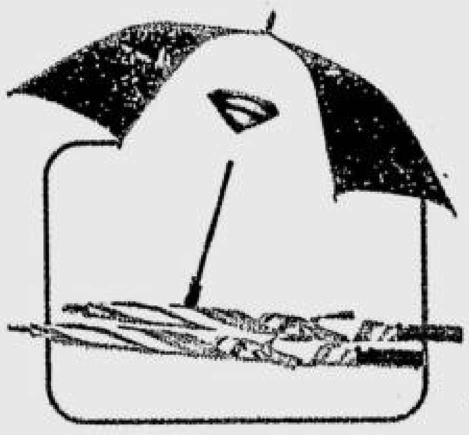

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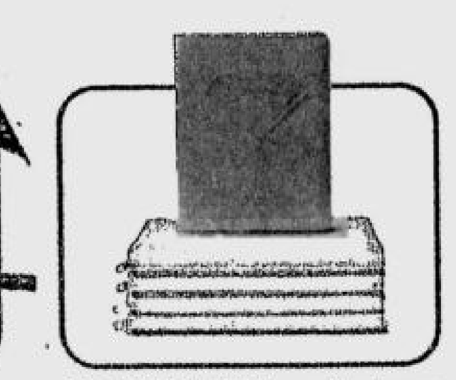

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STUDENTS join the tree planting project of the Candon City, Ilocos Sur government in a government land in Palacapac, Candon City.
LEONCIO G. BALBIN JR./PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Students plant trees in Arayat

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

MT. ARAYAT NATIONAL PARK, Pampanga—Each bearing mahogany seedlings, friends Christopher Samson and Renn Kevin Felix scaled this 914.4-meter (3,000 feet) high mountain on Saturday.

At a bowl-shaped cogonal field, reached after 400 steps from where they set off, Samson and Felix fixed the seedlings on holes that soldiers had dug earlier.

"I hope this lives and grows tall," Samson, 16, a computer programming student at the Pampanga Agricultural College (PAC), wished before hiking down.

With him at the same site and adjacent areas were about 2,000 students planting some 5,000 hardwood and fruit seedlings.

Jose Matias, the protected area's superintendent, said this was so far the year's biggest tree planting season, done under the National Service Training Program (NSTP).

The task was a requirement in school but Felix said he did not mind the effort.

"One tree will help the environment," he said.

In this instance, the students from the PAC, Camba National High School, Arayat Institute, Pampanga High School and East Central Colleges in Pampanga and the Central Luzon State University in Nueva Ecija did their part in reforesting some five hectares in the 3,715-hectare park.

Declared a national park in 1933, Mt. Arayat has zero primary forests in 1999, according to a study by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Second-growth forests covered 738 hectares; plantations, 928 hectares; grasslands and patches, 1,557 hectares; and crop areas, 492 hectares, the study said.

The 23 creeks here supply irrigation to some 360,000 hectares of rice fields on the Pampanga and Nueva Ecija sides of the mountain.

Last year, the DENR reforested 50 hectares through a P500,000-budget from the Pampanga River Basin Rehabilitation Program.

"There is no budget yet this year," said Matias, a forester from the DENR.

A five-year plan to make Mt. Arayat an ecological destination needed P48 million in 1999 but no funding came, past reports from the DENR showed.

This makes the work of the Save Mt. Arayat Movement (SMAM) more relevant.

Comprised of the Arayat local government, Office of the Presidential Adviser for Central Luzon, Quota International, the military's Northern Luzon Command and various government agencies, the reforestation of Mt. Arayat has ceased to become a sole undertaking of the DENR.

"Environmental protection should always be a concerted effort of sectors," Regidor de Leon, DENR regional executive director, said during the program.

Arayat Councilor Chona Macapagal-Oronce said the SMAM was organized on May 10.

Nolcom chief Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino told the students that environmental protection was an important component of keeping peace.

Communities that sustained their environment get to derive better livelihood, said Tolentino, who has earned the moniker "General Tree" for greening Fort Magsaysay and Camp Aquino, in Nueva Ecija and Tarlac, respectively.

Col. Ricardo Visaya, commander of the Army's 69th Infantry Battalion, said soldiers from his unit and the 703rd Infantry Battalion in 2004 initiated moves to take control of the park that was then ruled by rebels.

"The rebels took the collections [from the P30 entrance fee at the gate] instead of these going to the government. And the park was neglected. We put the park back in order, assigning volunteers here from among the residents," Visaya said.

The volunteers said they get a share from the income derived from the rental of three swimming pools at the 10-hectare recreation area at the foot of the park.

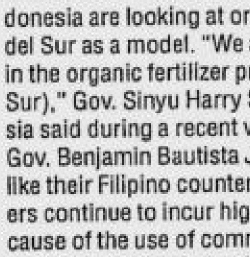
But they said they were still waiting for the release of their allowance from the Department of Tourism, which had not come in two years now.

ROUNDUP

Fake drugs check

DAVAO CITY—The city council has urged the Department of Health, the Bureau of Food and Drugs and the police to conduct an investigation on the reported widespread selling of fake drugs in the city. "There is a need to check the supply of counterfeit drugs in the market, following reports that these medicines continue to be widely available at bargain basement prices, with syndicates often preying on low-income earners," said Councilor Pilar Braga, chair of the council's health committee, during Wednesday's deliberation on her resolution. She said unless checked, fake medicines would continue to endanger the lives of patients.
Judy Quiros, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Mango is town's hope



DIGOS CITY—The municipality of Matanao has joined the government's One Town One Product (Otop) program and adopted mango as its major product. Otop is being implemented by the Department of Trade and Industry. Mayor Pablito Albarracin said hundreds of hectares of land in the town's 33 villages are planted to mango. He said they were optimistic that with the growing market for mangoes, farmers here would have better lives.
Eldie S. Aguirre, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Organic farming

DIGOS CITY—Farmers in North Sulawesi, Indonesia are looking at organic farming in Davao del Sur as a model. "We are very much interested in the organic fertilizer produced in (Davao del Sur)," Gov. Sinyu Harry Sarundajang of Indonesia said during a recent visit to Davao del Sur. Gov. Benjamin Bautista Jr. Sarundajang said unlike their Filipino counterparts, Indonesian farmers continue to incur high production cost because of the use of commercial farm inputs.
Eldie S. Aguirre, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Car exec hurt in ambush

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—An executive of a car manufacturing company was critically hurt in an ambush inside the First Philippine Industrial Park in Barangay Ulango, Tanauan City on Thursday. Police said Rodrigo Mercado, 46, production manager of Honda Philippines and a resident of Barangay San Rafael, Sto. Tomas, Batangas was maneuvering his Honda LXI at around 1 a.m. when the suspects shot him several times. Wounded, the victim rushed to a police station at the park's gate for help. The suspects eluded arrest.
Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Wage consultations

WAIT LANG...
WAGE BOARD

ILLUSTRATIONS: A. RODRIGUEZ

SORSOGON CITY—Bicol workers may have to wait a little longer for any wage increases. Bicol labor director Alex Maraan said consultations with the labor and employer sectors on wage increases will start here in July 10 for Sorsogon and Masbate provinces, July 12 for Albay and Catanduanes, July 14 for Camarines Sur and July 15 for Camarines Norte. The last time a wage benefit was granted to the workers in Bicol was on June 24, 2005 through an additional cost of living allowance worth P15 daily.
Bobby Q. Labalan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Dogs kill 8 in La Union

SAN FERNANDO CITY—Eight persons have died in La Union since January as a result of dog bites. Dr. Domingo Calub of the office of the provincial veterinarian said in reports that the number of fatalities has breached the annual average of six deaths in the province, including this city. Calub said the latest victims were a 26-year-old man from Barangay Parian here and an 11-year-old boy from Caba town who died of rabies on June 7 and 8, respectively. The rest of the fatalities came from San Gabriel and San Juan towns, with two victims each, and Bacnotan and Rosario towns.
Peter La. Julian, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

NDF vows revenge for killings of farmer, rights worker in Negros

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—THE NATIONAL DEMOcratic Front-Negros yesterday vowed to retaliate for the killing of a peasant leader and a human rights worker.

The warning, aired by priest-turned-rebel Frank Fernandez in a statement sent to media, coincided with the announcement of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group that it will file murder charges against the killers of TFM leader Wilfredo Cornea.

Cornea, vice president of an affiliate group of TFM, was gunned down by two unidentified men in his residence in Hacienda Luisita, Barangay 1-Poblacion, Sagay City on June 26.

Fernandez said the murder of Cornea and of Karapatan-Negros volunteer Eladio Dasian, who was killed in Guihulngan, Negros Oriental, was part of the "total war policy" of the government and of state terrorism.

Nenita Cornea, wife of the slain TFM leader, linked members of the Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade and Joseph Lacson, farm administrator of the 212-hectare Hacienda Luisita in Barangay 1-Poblacion owned by the Lopez family, to the killing of her husband.

Lacson who tested negative in paraffin tests, vehemently denied the accusations before Supt. William Señoron, the police chief of Sagay.

Senior Insp. Ramon Falales, 601st Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) provincial officer, said police would file charges soon against the killers.

Karapatan-Negros also blamed the 11th Infantry Battalion for the killing of Dasi-an, who was gunned down on June 20 by two unidentified suspects in Barangay Malusay, Guihulngan.

Fernandez claimed the squad had already killed 10 activists, local leaders and eight peasants.

Benguet priest, mayor argue over gambling

MANKAYAN, BENGUET—AN ANGLICAN priest assailed officials here for their alleged lukewarm reception to the Church's crusade to put an end to all forms of gambling, particularly "jueteng," in this town.

Agreeing with Catholic Archbishop Oscar Cruz, Fr. Jonathan Obar said gambling would thrive in any town if public officials did not share the same mission.

Obar, parish priest of St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church in Barangay Tabio, echoed the frustrations of the Mankayan Council of Churches that had been at the forefront of fighting illegal gambling here.

"Jueteng, video karera, *tong-it* and *salisi* have returned with vengeance in this town and this is being tolerated by officials. We are afraid the town might become a gambling den," he said.

But Mayor Manalo Galuten denied Obar's accusations, saying the priest might be unaware of the efforts of local officials to curb gambling in the town.

Asked if there is jueteng in the town, Galuten said: "There could be but they are guerrilla operations and the draws are held outside Mankayan."

The town council, he said, had passed a resolution to stop jueteng here in response to a resolution of the Mankayan Council of Churches that was earlier submitted to the town council.

"Our police force is doing everything it can to arrest gamblers, bet collectors and bettors themselves but we could not place a policeman in every inch of the town," he said.

This third class town has more than 37,000 people in 12 villages.

Galuten said a debate ensued between the Church and businessmen in March 2006 when several operators proposed the holding of gambling activities for four days during the weeklong town fiesta.

"But we gave in to the Church's objection so we decided to scrap any gambling activity for the celebration," he said.

Galuten said local officials and Church leaders should join hands in discouraging people to place their bets on jueteng.

"The officials and the Church must have the same mission to make the town gambling-free. The officials should not see us as enemies but as partners in the fight against gambling," Obar said. *Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

COUNTDOWN VS DENR

36
Araw

na WALANG AKSYON
si Department of Environment and Natural Resources
SECRETARY ANGELO T. REYES
sa kahilingan ng mga Bulakenyo at iba pang mga
Pilipinong nagmamalasakit sa kalikasan na
KANSELAHIN ang
Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA)
ng Rosemoor Mining and Development Corp.

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SAVE BIAK-NA-BATO

Get Gringo next, cops told

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan, TJ Burgonio and Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

IT'S NOW AN ALL-OUT MANHUNT FOR Gringo.

After the fall of the so-called "Magdalo powerhouse," authorities would now concentrate on capturing ex-senator Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan and three of his associates who were earlier charged with rebellion in connection with the failed July 2003 Oakwood mutiny.

Honasan, who has a P5 million bounty on his head, has gone into hiding since an arrest warrant was issued against him for allegedly masterminding the mutiny. He was also implicated in the aborted coup plot last Feb. 24. He has so far eluded arrest.

Newly-appointed police chief Oscar Calderon said only Honasan was left of the alleged destabilizers yet to be arrested after six rebel officers which he considered the "powerhouse" of the Magdalo group were rounded up in a raid in Quezon City on Friday.

Aside from Honasan, the others who remain at large are retired Navy Capt. Felix Turingan, who has a P1 million bounty, George Duldulao and Lina Reyes, who have a P250,000 bounty each.

"We are shifting our operations towards them. They're the only ones left out there," Philippine National Police Director Jesus Versoza, head of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), said yesterday.

Military and police intelligence units have been trying to track down Honasan in areas where he was reportedly seen, but so far have had no success.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said the government was optimistic that the fall of Honasan would now be inevitable following the arrests.

The provinces in the islands of Negros and Panay are still being closely watched for the possible presence of the fugitive former senator.

But a former colleague at the Senate cautioned authorities against intensifying the manhunt for Honasan.

Ex-Sen. Vicente "Tito" Sotto III said yesterday that by doing so the government was only driving Honasan to go deeper into hiding.

"Maybe, they don't want him to come out," Sotto said by telephone.

"They really want to push him back to the wall. And if you push a person to the wall, you either want to kill him or you want him to fight back."

Gonzalez said he received information that Honasan was in Negros a few months ago and, recently, in Iloilo.

"I understand he had even a chance to talk to the bishop. That is my information, I can not confirm it 100 percent, but my information is quite A 1," Gonzalez said.

But recent police searches in Negros and Iloilo for Honasan have proven negative.

Gonzalez, who was in Bacolod to speak before the Rotary Club of Bacolod South, said Honasan had sent him feelers through intermediaries that he would resurface but with certain conditions.

Gonzalez refused to give details. "We are studying these ... You can get feelers but if they are not sincere there is no use talking about them," he said.

Sotto, however, reiterated that his former colleague would come out in the open and answer the charges if the Department of Justice granted his petition for preliminary investigation in connection with the mutiny.

"If he feels the government will give him a fair deal, then he will definitely come out," he added.

Honasan and six associates in the Philippine Guardians Brotherhood Inc. (PGBI), an association of military and police officers, were issued arrest warrants for their alleged involvement in the 2003 Oakwood mutiny.

Norway rules out resumption of talks

PEACE TALKS BROKER NORWAY SAID IT SAW no chance of a rapid resumption of the stalled peace talks between the Philippine government and the communist-led National Democratic Front (NDF).

"I don't see the prospect of talks resuming in the near future," Tore Hattrem, director general of the section of peace and reconciliation at the Norwegian foreign ministry, told AFP after four days of consultations with the NDF.

Top NDF officials flow to Oslo last week to coordinate with Norwegian foreign ministry officials its bid to resume formal peace talks with the Philippine government.

Hattrem said the discussions with the NDF were part of regular routine talks which Norway has held with both sides in the decades-old conflict, but declined to give any details of the encounter.

Norway has acted as peace broker between the government and the NDF, comprising the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its 7,400-member New People's Army (NPA), since February 2004.

Malacañang, however, has ruled out the resumption of peace talks unless the communist rebels agreed to an immediate ceasefire nationwide.

But the NDF yesterday flatly rejected the government's call for a ceasefire as a pre-condition to the peace talks.

All-out war

"The all-out war policy of the Arroyo regime and the gross human rights violations are obstacles to the resumption of the formal talks in the GRP-NDFP peace negotiations," said NDF panel chair Luis Jalandoni in a statement.

Jaladoni accused the government of deceiving the people by demanding a permanent or prolonged ceasefire without any prior agreements on social, economic and political reforms that are satisfactory to the people.

"Those accountable for such violations of the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees as listed below should be brought to justice before the resumption of formal talks," he added.

The NDF cited the murder of former Bicol rebel leader Sotero Llamas, the assassination plans against Sison and leftist lawyer Romeo Capulong and the abductions of NDF regional consultants Edgardo Sacamay, Angelina Ipong, Eduardo Serrano, Rogelio Calubad with his son and Prudencio Calubid, together with his two companions.

Sen. Jamby Madrigal yesterday said the government should not set any precondition for the resumption of talks with the communist guerrillas.

Give and take

"When you talk, there should be give and take. There should be goodwill on both sides and a genuine desire for peace if peace negotiation is to succeed," Madrigal said in a phone interview. "For peace negotiations to succeed, you need goodwill."

The opposition senator, whose meeting with top NDF leaders in the Netherlands infuriated the Palace, stressed that both sides should be flexible. "If you set conditions, nothing will happen."

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., however, offered another view: "Demanding ceasefire is a good tactical move. Hard to talk with bullets wheezing by. The sound of gunfire will drown out the voice of reason."

The NDF's peace overtures came after President Macapagal-Arroyo directed the military to crush the 37-year insurgency in two years. She also ordered the release of P1 billion to fund its "all out" war.

The talks were suspended in August 2004 after the communist rebels demanded that the government ask the European Union and the United States to strike them off their lists of foreign terrorist organizations. *With reports from AFP, Norman Bordadora, TJ Burgonio, Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau and Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

"Gusto kong malaman ang secrets ng ibang negosyante."

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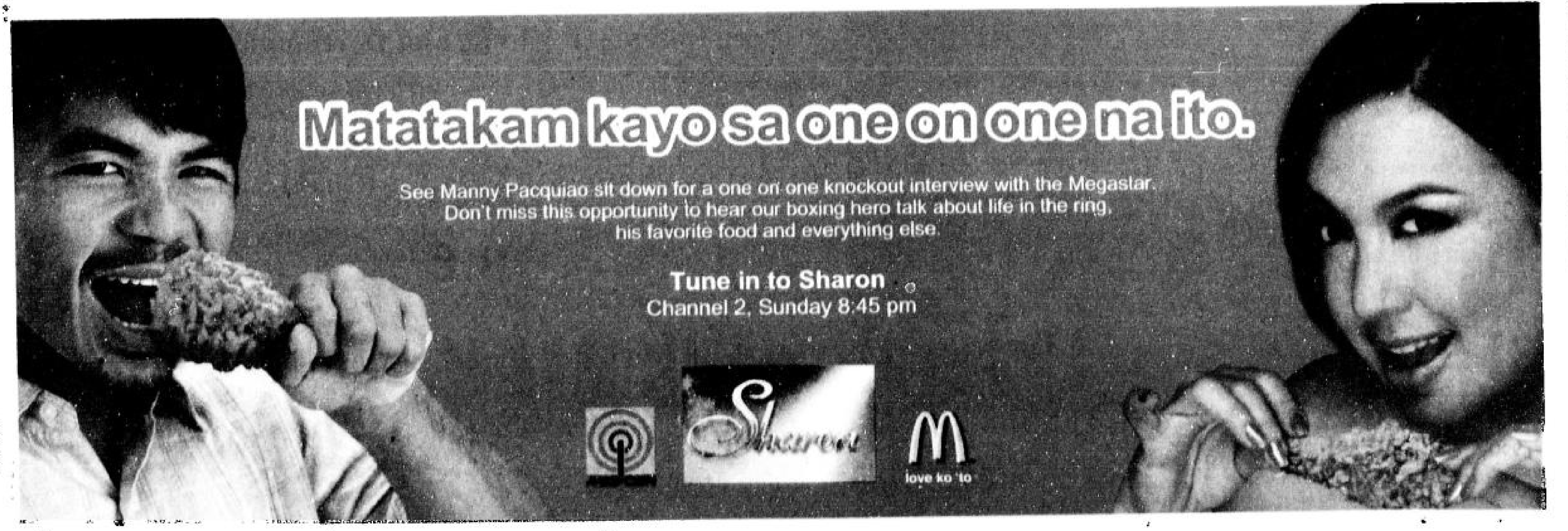

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A program to empower disadvantaged kids

Child-to-child approach helps bring down barriers of bias

By Tina G. Santos

THEY'RE YOUNG AND THEY COME FROM poor families in the City of Manila. But for the past four years, these youngsters have been mentors to other less fortunate children, trying to educate them on their rights and responsibilities.

Meet the ChAMPs or the Child Advocates of Museo Pambata, 12 children, aged six to 15 years old, who share insights and experiences with their peers to help them appreciate their roles in their respective families, schools, communities and society in general.

The group is involved in the museum's Children's Advocacy Program, an alternative educational scheme that aims to increase young people's awareness of issues concerning them.

"This is a venue for children so they can learn how to formulate ideas and speak their minds," said Lorna Zaragosa, program coordinator.

No biases, prejudices

Implemented in January 2002, the program uses the child-to-child approach based on the principle that the young generally do not have biases or prejudices. "And children normally feel at ease with people their age," Zaragosa added.

What makes the program different from the others is that the group tries to educate their peers through theater, storytelling and shadow play.

THE CHAMPS are on a mission: To teach other children about their rights and responsibilities.

ROMY HOMILLADA

"Child advocates explore the rudiments of performance arts as tools for self-expression and realization. They tackle thematic children and youth issues and translate these into performance arts," Zaragosa said. "This way, discussions are more fun and easier for kids to grasp."

The ChAMPs were picked from Manila's centers for street children, public schools and poor communities.

Commitment vital

According to Zaragosa, the members were selected, not for their intellectual capacity but for their interest, talent, vivacity and sense of responsibility and commitment.

"This is also a means of empowering disadvantaged children, making them realize that they may lack material wealth but they can rise above their condition by enhancing their personalities and by developing their talents," Zaragosa said. "That's why ChAMPs also stands for 'champions'."

She proudly pointed out that her young wards are viewed not only as teachers or actors in a play but as role models that their audiences could emulate.

To hone their performing and personal skills, the members of the group continuously undergo training on creative and performance arts, values education, personality development and leadership under established groups like the Philippine Educational Theater Association (Peta), Children's Lab (Children's Laboratory for Drama in Education) Anino Shadowplay Collective and Alitaptap Storytellers Club.

Hands-on

"They also get to write their own scripts, make puppets and experiment on visual effects for their productions," Zaragosa said.

Anino is a group of multimedia artists dedicated to popularizing the art of shadow play through live performances, exhibitions, video publication and workshops.

On the other hand, the Alitaptap Storytellers Club is composed of volunteers who aim to in-

A PROGRAM/ A18

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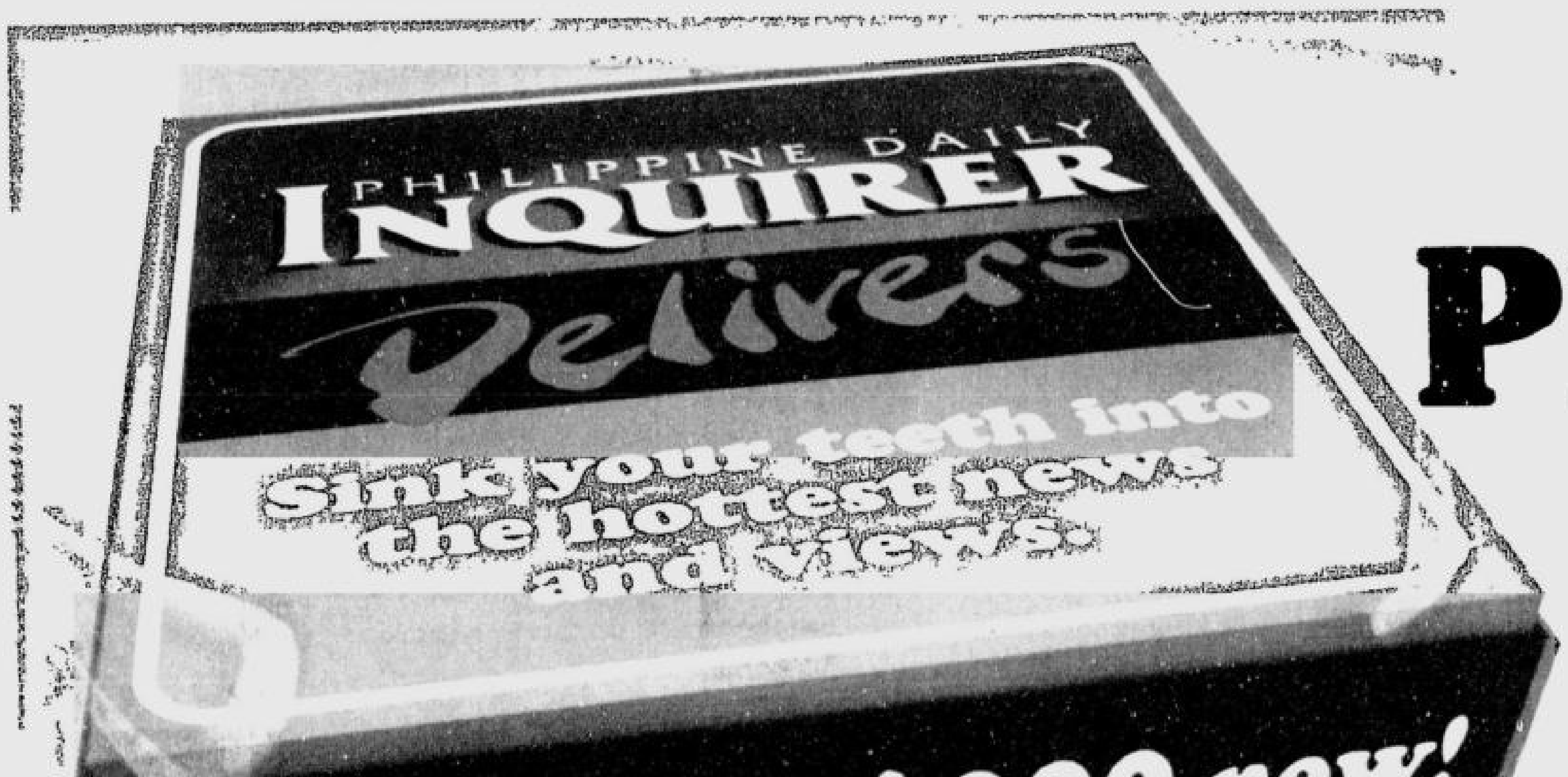
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Collector shares 'treasures' with antique lovers

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

Oldest item in collection dates back to Spanish period

EDILBERTO Uy with his collection of stamps and old money, which he says, gives him a sense of fulfillment.

PHOTOS BY ROGER CARPIO

FOR 54-YEAR-OLD EDILBERTO UY, HIS most treasured bills and coins are those which he cannot spend.

His collection of old bills and coins spans decades and just seeing them neatly arranged in his red scrapbook gives him the fulfillment money cannot buy.

Those who look at his treasures would also be equally thrilled and amazed.

His collection dates back to the American Occupation as well as the Japanese Occupation where the currency were made from old paper bags.

TALES OF THE CITY

Uy's collection also includes the bills—in all denominations—from all the administrations during and after the Commonwealth Period, from when Manuel Roxas was president with the word "Victory" printed on the back, up to the term of President Fidel Ramos.

His oldest is a 50-centavo coin with the face of Spanish King Alfonso XII which was circulated in the country during the last few years of the Spanish regime.

"Collecting old bills and coins gives me a sense of achievement. It gives me a feeling of fulfillment," he told the INQUIRER, proudly showing the red scrapbook holding his treasures.

How it began

His passion for antique money began when he was a grade schooler at the Crusader's Academy, now the San Lorenzo Ruiz Academy.

Uy said he went on a school field trip to a museum, the name of which he can no longer remember, but his fascination with the collection of stamps and bills he saw there has remained in his heart.

He then began his collection of stamps, even exchanging letters with stamp collectors (philatelists) abroad. To inspire him, he bought a book on stamps and vowed to acquire all the ones displayed in the book. But he has yet to complete his collection.

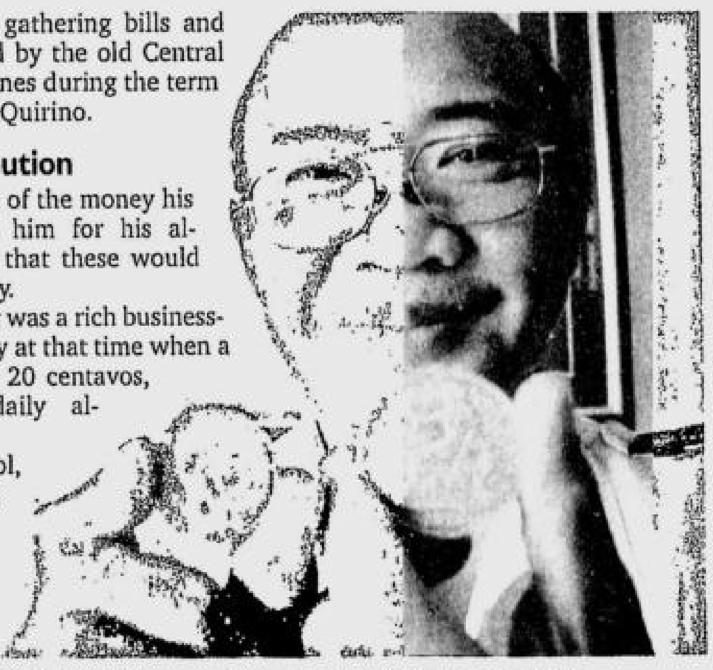
Then, Uy became interested in old money. He started gathering bills and coins being recalled by the old Central Bank of the Philippines during the term of President Elpidio Quirino.

Father's contribution

He also hid some of the money his father would give him for his allowance, believing that these would be valuable someday.

Uy said his father was a rich businessman which was why at that time when a bottle of soda cost 20 centavos, he received a daily allowance of P1.

After high school, he enrolled in a business course at the National College of Business Administration. But when his father's business—buying and selling *palay*—crumbled, he was forced to drop out.


UY SHOWS some of the oldest coins in his collection.

Uy said he had to work as a collection manager for a cable wire manufacturer to help send his siblings to school. Although things were tight financially, he still managed to save some money to continue his hobby.

Priceless bill

In 1972, he bought an album listing all the bills and coins circulated in the country. This, Uy said, strengthened his resolve to save enough money to buy old bills and coins from antique stores in Manila. His most expensive find so far: a P10 bill with the face of US President George Washington circulated in 1937 which he bought for P800, when the Central Bank of the Philippines was still a dream. "This bill is now worth more than P3,000," he pointed out.

Uy said he decided to start his collection with bills and coins circulated during the American Occupation for the simple reason that "looking for bills and coins used earlier would be very difficult."

Completing the denominations used during the American Occupation was itself already a daunting task.

His collection for this period is still incomplete—he still longs to acquire the P50 and the P100 bills—which he said had the face of Ferdinand Magellan, credited to have "discovered" the country on March 16, 1521. "These bills are now very expensive," Uy told the INQUIRER.

Not for sale

Other collectors have offered to buy some of the items in his red scrapbook. But he has turned all of them away.

Sending his two sons and daughter to school was not easy, he admitted, even though his wife also pitched in with her salary as a college teacher.

"There were times I wanted to eat some food, or buy something, but I just restrained myself. My collection still remained my priority," Uy added.

This has, however, entailed a lot of sacrifices on his part. After all, he is not only saving money to buy old bills; he also spends a considerable amount to take care of his collection.

Expensive to maintain

His scrapbook, bought from a specialty store catering to collectors like him, is made of plastic sheets with slots designed for bills. The sheets are worth P100 each.

He also spent P4,000 for a glass frame where he displayed the first bills printed by the Central Bank of the Philippines. The frame hangs in his office at the Youth Camp Building at the Marikina City Riverpark in Barangay Barangka.

"This is a concrete lesson in history," he told the INQUIRER, saying that he has shown his scrapbook to students in the city.

"This collection can be used as a reference by students who have never seen these bills," Uy added.

His legs may be wobbly now. But just like when he was still younger, he still goes to antique shops in Manila once or twice a week to look for the missing pieces of his collection.

His scrapbook now has more than 100 bills and more than 70 coins so far. But Uy said he is always eager to look around for more.

METROBRIEFS

Get involved!

THE LAS PIÑAS government has tapped fastfood chains and restaurants in the city to join its waste management awareness campaign. In a statement yesterday, Mayor Imelda Aguilar said that if establishment owners were to practice waste recycling and composting, the collection and disposal of garbage would no longer be a problem in the next five years. Aguilar also reiterated her appeal for residents in city subdivisions to practice proper waste disposal. Roughly 700 cubic meters of garbage are collected daily from households and commercial and industrial establishments in the city's 20 barangays. The Las Piñas City government operates 60 compactor trucks and 10 open dump trucks for its zero-waste management campaign. It has also mobilized 1,000 volunteers across the city to oversee its cleanliness drive. *Jocelyn R. Uy*

Blood Donors' Month

IN celebration of Blood Donor's Month, the country's top blood donors—both individuals and companies—will be honored by the Philippine National Red Cross on July 21 at the Manila Pavilion. The month-long celebration began on July 3 with a bloodletting activity at the Central Bank of the Philippines where the PNRC presented a token of appreciation to Governor Rosa Rosal for 56 years of service in the organization. "I encourage people who are fit to donate blood to give their blood to the Red Cross," she said. "If we follow what citizens do in Indonesia, which is to donate blood on their birthday, then we will never be short of blood." To ensure its preparedness for disasters, the PNRC seeks to maintain a daily inventory of 1,000 units of blood for Metro Manila and 2,000 units for the rest of the country. For inquiries, please call or visit the PNRC National Blood Center, Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila, with telephone numbers 5270000 (local 150) and 5270861.

ALMOST DESERTED

Most people stayed at home yesterday as strong rains pummeled the metropolis due to Typhoon "Ester." This stretch of Baywalk was empty except for three people: a man, his son and a woman who seemed fascinated by the strong waves in Manila Bay.

RYAN LIM

Grenade under van causes panic in Divisoria

By Tina G. Santos

SHOPPERS AND VENDORS IN DIVISORIA were thrown into panic yesterday afternoon after a motorcycle-riding man hurled a live grenade under a parked van.

Luckily, the explosive did not go off.

Some stall holders in Tutuban Mall, however, left the building as an explosive ordnance disposal team from the Manila Police District prepared to detonate the grenade to prevent a big explosion.

Witnesses told authorities that a man on a motorcycle threw the grenade under the van which was parked in front of a drug store at around 1:30 p.m.

Rusty spring

Police said the pin of the grenade had already been removed. "But the spring that would have triggered it was already rusty, that's why it did not go off," they explained.

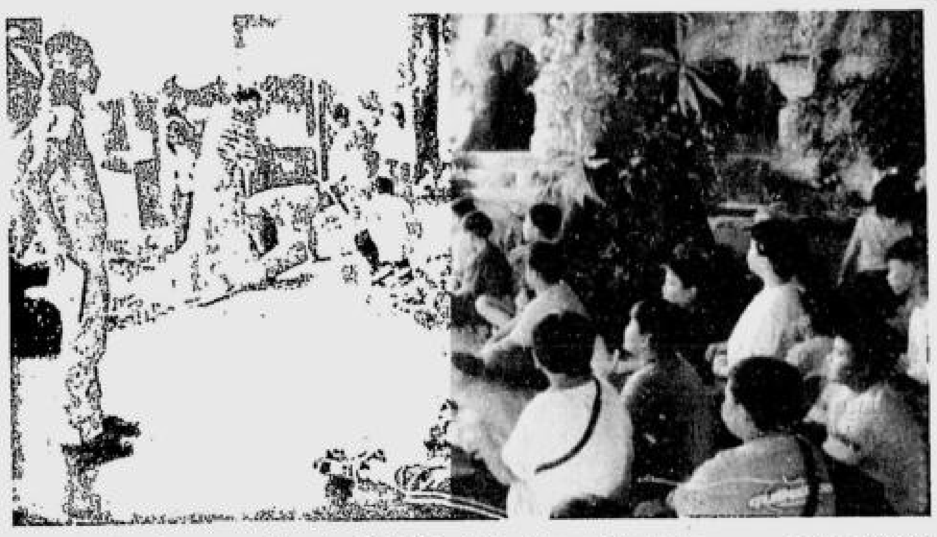
The MPD team decided not to try to move the grenade as it could blow off at the slightest touch, police added.

Before detonating the grenade, the bomb disposal team covered it with materials that would muffle the explosion.

Safely detonated

People who watched the police team from a distance were relieved when the grenade was safely detonated less than an hour later.

Authorities who said that the grenade could have caused extensive damage had it gone off, were still trying to determine the motive behind the incident.


ONE of the plays staged by the ChAMPs at the Museo Pambata.

ROMY HONILLADA

A program to...

From page A17

still in children an appreciation of literature by holding storytelling sessions.

The ChAMPs perform regularly at the museum, in schools and communities.

Sample plays

One of the plays presented by the group is "Si Emang Engkantada at ang Tatlong Haragan," a story about three hard-headed kids who refuse to care for the environment. When they wander into a garden owned by an enchantress, they destroy the plants. As punishment, they are brought to a place where there are no trees, no water and filled with garbage. The children then realize their mistake and promise to care for their surroundings.

Another play, "Isang Mundong Makabata," tells the story of Shermaine, a young girl who ends up in an evacuation camp because of the war in Mindanao. When she sees the other war victims like her, she realizes that people should be more considerate of her and of other children. Shermaine also realizes that she and the other kids have the right to be protected from conflicts and be assured of a peaceful home to live in.

"I try to share with my siblings, classmates and neighbors the things I've learned from the program," said Shermaine Panuncial, 13, a ChAMP who has been part of the group since its formation in 2002.

As compensation, Shermaine and the other child advocates get transportation and food allowances.

Positive side effect

Apart from the monetary reward, however, a more significant benefit of being a ChAMP is the improvement in the members' self-esteem.

"After a while, you can see how they've changed. They now exude confidence," Zaragosa observed, saying she even goes the extra mile by teaching the children good grooming and proper manners.

Though there was a minor problem in discipline at first, this was soon resolved, she said, adding that the strong bond among members of the group has served as a source of strength, especially since some of the children come from broken families.

"We make each other feel like we are a family. It's like being a second parent to these kids," Zaragosa said.

While members of the group are required to religiously attend seminars and workshops, she said she also encourages them, particularly those attending regular classes, to do well in school.

Parents also involved

"We monitor them, we evaluate their class standing. Of course, we also want them to excel in class and get a good education," she said. Zaragosa added that the parents of child advocates are considered a major component of the program.

"To achieve a holistic and conducive environment for the children's development, the parents are updated on the activities of the program. As a support group, they are encouraged to join activities that can help make them better parents and better persons," she said.

While older members serve as facilitators in workshops for newer ChAMPs, other members of the group have moved on to better things, becoming members of more established performance arts groups.

"That's fine. In fact, it's gratifying to know that our efforts are bearing fruit. It's good if they get better breaks outside," Zaragosa said with a smile, aware that her wards may be ordinary kids on the outside but have big dreams and the heart to pursue them.

GLOBAL Pinoy
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This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

DH an award-winning poet in Taiwan

This high school graduate performs with Taipei's best artists

By Nancy T. Lu
Contributor

TAIWAN IS WHERE ONE Filipino migrant worker has let her dreams soar like the kite of her fantasy, embarking on an exhilarating ride to success and glory in the land of her employers.

THE WAY SHE LOOKS TONIGHT: Panaligan is exceptionally radiant in a Philippine dress with butterfly sleeves at her last recital at the National Concert Hall in Taipei. "I never dreamed I would have an opportunity like this."

Ellen Panaligan, a migrant worker in Taipei, looked exceptionally radiant and beautiful one Thursday evening recently. The Filipina hailing from Balayan, Batangas, had put on a formal Philippine dress with butterfly sleeves before graciously stepping into the stage limelight to recite her award-winning poem in Tagalog.

Only the day before, Panaligan had shown up for the first time at the National Concert Hall in Taipei to discover to her great surprise how impressive the venue, reserved usually for the top performing artists of the world, was.

"I never dreamed that I would have this opportunity to go up the stage in a hall like this one," she gushed. On many occasions in the past, she had participated in programs organized by the Filipino community. Modest school auditoriums were usually used.

When the well-known Ju Percussion Group approached her several weeks earlier to invite her to recite her award-winning poetry during a series of concerts around Taiwan, she felt really honored.

Good employer

"My employer recognized the Ju Percussion Group by name," recalled the smiling Panaligan. "And so I was quickly given permission to take some time off to participate in the program. Not long after, I hesitantly went back to my employer to ask that I be allowed to attend the dress rehearsal. Again, I was given some hours off."

Panaligan thanked her lucky star for being blessed with such an understanding and encouraging employer. Many of her fellow Filipino migrant workers were not allowed even just one day off in a week, she thought.

"Listening, Smiling"—the Ju Percussion Group's spring concert—was conceived from the beginning as a tribute to the migrant workers in Taiwan. Wang Chi-mei, the veteran stage director collaborating with the percussionists, came up with the idea of getting the country's best-known professional percussionists to play music from the homelands of the foreign workers in Taiwan. This meant putting all kinds of exotic instruments on the stage.

"For more than 10 years now, Taiwanese families and industries have increasingly relied on foreign workers from countries like Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines and Indonesia," remarked Wang. "Conflicts have erupted with the workers complaining about unfair treatment. Negative reports regarding the rising social problem kept appearing in the media."

Wang wondered aloud: "Maybe by playing the music from the countries of these workers, we can show our willingness and readiness to understand them and their culture. Everyone listening to the music can perhaps be moved to feel joy. A friendly spirit as well as mutual respect can emerge to diffuse tense relations."

To promote a better understanding of the plight of the migrant workers, Wang decided to give their poetry an airing during the program. The percussionists took turns reading the translated version of selected poems about the foreign workers' hardships and sacrifices.

Winning streak

The 35-year-old Panaligan proved a perfect discovery for the concert program. For three years in a row, from 2003 to 2005, she had been a winner in the foreign workers' poetry writing contest organized by the Taipei City government.

Panaligan's "Saranggola" (Kite) placed second and her "Buhay Migrante" (Life of a Migrant Worker) came out fifth in the contest in 2003. "Ang Panday" (The Anvil) won second prize in 2004. Her winning streak continued. Last year, "Orasan" (Clock) received first prize while "Damong Ligaw" (Wild Grass) took the fifth honor in the verse-writing competition.

When Panaligan started reciting "Saranggola," a personal favorite, on the night of May 11, emoting her dream to fly high and not drop to the ground, many in the audience listened closely even though they did not speak a word of Tagalog. Somehow, they seemed to understand the feelings and aspirations articulated by a self-sacrificing migrant worker.

"You are only a maid," Panaligan was told by unfeeling people in the past and the harsh words kept ringing in her ears. But she was not discouraged. Humiliations only taught this mother of two to be strong.

Her father told her: "If you fall, stand up." Her life has seen her hurdling one challenge after another.

Oratorical skills

Panaligan's oratorical skill had been honed since her school days. In Taipei, she was known, too, for her Balagtasan talent. As a participant in the traditional poetic dialogue conducted in a style started by Francisco Balagtas, the father of Philippine poetry, she showed herself to be really good in the vernacular art.

Panaligan did her father proud on many occasions throughout her four years and a half in Taiwan. Poverty had aborted her father's dream of going to a journalism school to train to be a writer. But now he sees his aspiration being fulfilled through his daughter, who has been building a name as a poet and writer in Taiwan.

"I only finished high school," revealed Panaligan. "In fact, the Samahang Makata (Society of Poets) members made me feel that I could not compare with them because of my lack of college education."

According to Panaligan, the publication of her poem for the first time in Taiwan gave her the self-confidence to join the migrant workers' poetry writing contest in Taipei in 2003. The Samahang Makata members who had rejected her also participated. Panaligan, however, was the one who won second prize and honorable mention that year.

Poetry at work

Panaligan has published a volume consisting of 20 poems in the Philippines. She has kept up her poetic output, hoping to publish her second volume eventually.

"I write poetry while doing work in the house," said Panaligan. "I could be mopping the floor when an idea would strike me. Therefore, I keep a piece of paper and a pen ready all the time. I write down the thoughts which come to me anytime."

The devoted caretaker of two children clarified: "Not everything I put down in my poems can be said to be my own personal experience. I sometimes express what other migrant workers have to deal with."

Life has not been easy.

Panaligan, a single parent, is supporting two daughters. Her husband left her for another woman. Her 16-year-old daughter recently graduated high school valedictorian, making her a very proud mother. This daughter has received a scholarship to study nursing at the Far Eastern University in Manila.

To encourage the young graduate about to enter college, the Pan couple whom Panaligan is serving in Taipei have generously given her a notebook computer complete with a scanner and a printer as graduation gift.

Three best things

The three best things to have happened to Panaligan after years of hard work and sacrifice abroad have included her being able to buy a house and lot.

"My family used to live in a rented *nipa* house," she said.

Her finding work in Taiwan has also enabled her to give her two children a good education, she said.

"I will continue to work abroad until my two daughters have finished their schooling," she added.

She cited her winning of the first prize in poetry writing last year as the third best thing to have happened to her. "I dedicated my success to my father."

The Ju Percussion Group asked Eleanor "Nene" Bautista Ho, a Filipino married to a Taiwanese, to read a poem also written by Panaligan at the concert. Ho translated "Buhay Migrante" (Life of a Migrant Worker) into English.

Repertoire

The percussionists picked "Dinuyya"—an exciting piece characterized by rhythmic pounding traced to the Cordillera highlands—for inclusion in the upbeat repertoire. Lu Huan-wei, a member of the percussion ensemble, sang lyrics in a Mindanao dialect during the Philippine segment of the program. "Vinta," which was the title of the musical number from the Muslim south of the Philippines, called for gamelan accompaniment.

Lu said afterwards: "I have yet to find a Filipino who could tell me the meaning of the lyrics." He simply mimicked the sounds heard from a CD (just like Filipino children singing the Chinese-language "Meteor Garden" theme song) during his performance. Resident composer Hung Chien-hui arranged the lilting tune of "Tinikling" (which means making like the birds in the field) in the concert program.

Hung also composed "Gamelan Fantasia" for the Ju Percussion Group. The Indonesian portion also highlighted "Ketiak," which is of Balinese origin.

The percussionists had fun learning an entertaining Thai children's song titled "Pleng Suan Krua" for the concert. The Vietnamese folk musical instrument of bamboo called *trung* had a special place in the Vietnamese repertoire. So did another bamboo instrument, which required the player to clap close to the pipes to make them emit musical notes.

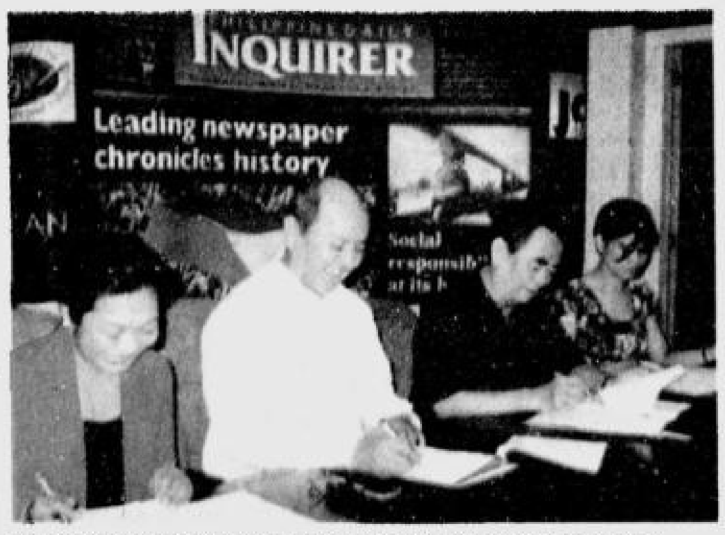
"Listening, Smiling," featuring the Ju Percussion Group, was presented at the Chung Shan Hall in Taichung on May 21 and also at the Chiayi County Performing Arts Center on May 13.

How to invest your dollar remittances in a backyard piggery

By Francisco J. Colayco
Contributor

TO A WIFE OF AN OFW WHO wants to invest her husband's monthly remittance of $300 (P15,000), I advised her to consider these questions:

- Does she really like this business?
- Does she know how to choose the healthy piglets, how to grow it to the proper size without any disease, how to slaughter it (or have it slaughtered) and sell the parts at the right price?



KUMUSTAHAN 2006. The INQUIRER will join singers and stars in bringing a taste of home to the millions of Filipino workers through a musical tour. Publisher Isagani Yambot (third from left) and corporate affairs director Connie Kalagayan (left) sign an agreement with concert producer Vic Alcuaz and project director Jeannie Pilapil for the series of shows from Guam to the United States and from the Middle East to Europe starting next month. ROGER CARPIO

- If she does not have the skills required, will she be fully dependent on somebody to operate the business?
- Or will she go through some kind of training to learn to do it herself?

Notice that I am emphasizing the need to have a strong personal interest in the business, not forcing to have a business. She has a strong chance of success in the business only if she has real personal interest and hopefully sufficient technical skills. Otherwise, she is taking a big risk unless she has a good and trustworthy partner/employee who has the skills.

Remember though that she has to keep her partner honest. If her partner has nothing to lose and everything to gain, it would not be a fair partnership. If the partner has no money to contribute, Joyce should at least make sure that there would be some penalty for him, if he were negligent. For example, in this case, they should have an agreement beforehand that if something happens to the pigs because of his negligence, his share in the revenue or profit could be reduced. Of course, there is also that possibility that the business will end up with no profit at all and Joyce might be burdened with the entire loss.

Make a financial study

- Identify the location plus the equipment and manpower needed. Make sure the neighbors will not be upset with pigs growing and smelling beside them.
- Understand the technical issues of growing and slaughtering pigs. She can try to get information from the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture.
- Establish the kind of capital that will be needed. For example, she needs to compute how much each pig will cost and how much feeds, medicines and vitamins will be consumed. The number of pigs can then be adjusted to the portion of the P15,000 that she wants to put into the project.
- Is there a marketing plan to ensure that the entire carcass will be sold immediately? Otherwise, she has to estimate the storage cost and/or cost to sell at a lower price.
- Study in detail the more likely behavior of cash flows ... cash that is put out and cash that is collected each week or at least each month until you get back your initial capital. In this business, monthly cash flows must always be positive. This is a cash business. Buyers must pay within the month. Otherwise, more capital will be needed.
- Make sure funds are available. Loans to buy more pigs are also available from both government and nongovernment lending institutions.

More tips

If she really wants to have a small pig trading business but is afraid to invest a bigger amount, she might want to consider buying the pig at a certain size and slaughtering it to sell. She should look at the following:

- A real need in her barangay for such a service because she should be able to sell immediate upon slaughter to prevent storage coast and to keep the quality of the carcass.
- The technical skill to buy the right pig at the right price, the capability to slaughter and carve out the correct cuts for the market.
- Computation of profits after considering the shrinkage from the live hog to the slaughtered carcass, delayed or nonpayments by customers and the cost of slaughtering.
- Selling prices of each type of cut to be sure that she is competitive with the market.
- If too many in her barangay decide to slaughter pigs on days too close to each other and they are all looking at the same limited market, they may all lose money unnecessarily. It may be good for those who have the same technical skills to get together to schedule for maximum benefits for all.

Colayco is the author of three bestsellers: Wealth Within Your Reach (2004 Book of the Year for Business and Economics Awardee), Making Your Money Work, and Pera Palaguin Workbook. Learn more about his advocacy on www.colayco foundation.com or email info@colaycofoundation.com . the books are available at National Bookstores, Powerbooks, 0917-8537333, 02-6314446.

Making Dreams Possible

Weng Dubling vividly recalls those times when all that she and her husband, Ronald, could do was just talk about their plans and dreams. The future seemed uncertain as Ronald was without a college diploma to his name, and banked only on his reputation of being an industrious and focused worker. After he was forced to drop out of his medical technician course at FEU when his family fell on hard times, he found himself in various odd jobs, including stints as a maintenance worker and as a delivery man.

Even after they got married, Ronald and Weng had to share an apartment with half a dozen relatives just to make ends meet. For her part, Weng was only too happy to see Ronald and to talk to him in what little time they could share between his long working hours.

"Mahirap talaga noong mga time na yon. Kaya mahalaga sa amin na alam namin ang nararamdaman ng bawat isa," she confides. The thought of being away from each other troubled the young couple. They also had a three-year-old child, Rizle, to think of.

But Ronald had bigger plans for his family. He dreamed of giving his family their own home, and maybe a car. Perhaps even one day, he hoped, he could even save up enough money to put up his own internet café.

Ultimately, Ronald's dreams of a better life for his wife and child outweighed any lingering fears he had of working abroad thus, with a heavy and uncertain heart, he boarded an airplane for Saudi Arabia in 1997.

Driven by the same determination and perseverance that delivered him and his wife through their first few years as a family, he managed to land a job as a manual laborer at the blow molding packaging facility of Almarai Trading Co. Ltd, Saudi Arabia's largest dairy products manufacturer.

Those first few years were hard for Weng, who tried to raise their child well even in Ronald's absence. She recalls how difficult it was for Rizle, much of whose childhood years were spent without a father figure nearby.

"Gusto ko man sana tumawag ng madalas, pero mahirap at saka magastos," she remembers.

Yet despite being half a world away, Ronald was always a supportive husband and a doting father. "Noong bago pa lang ako, halos araw-araw ako tumatawag. Nauubos ang kalahati ng sweldo ko para sa tawag lang!" he recalls. Overseas landline calls at the time cost SAR13, about P180 in today's currency, per minute.

Thanks to his homegrown values of dedication and industriousness, Ronald soon won the respect and admiration of his superiors and found himself moving up the ranks. First, he was promoted to laboratory assistant at the blow molding facility. Aside from his usual tasks, Ronald also proved himself capable of handling other jobs that his colleagues were either unable or unwilling to do. "Minsan nga, magbabakasyon ako tapos pagbalik ko ang daming problema na ako lang ang nakakaayos," he says. Among the occasional tasks assigned to him was the delicate procedure of handling and preparing the microorganism cultures that are vital to the company's dairy production.

The management was so impressed that, in mid-2001, Ronald received an Employee of the Month award and a gift of SAR100. Soon thereafter, he was promoted to laboratory technician -a move which naturally met with some resistance, given that he did not have a college degree in spite of company policies.

Nevertheless, his manager stood by his side, citing Ronald's impeccable track record, which more than made up for his lack of credentials. For himself, Ronald continued to prove himself through his work. "Lahat ng ipagawa sa akin, ginagawa ko -at may resultang ipapakita," he says proudly. "Pinakita ko talaga na kaya ko ang kahit na anong ipagawa sa akin sa lab."

A grin flashes across Ronald's face as he remembers one particular point of pride: "Ako lang ang Pilipino doon."

Ronald credits his success not only to his own endeavors, but also to his constant connection with his family. Weng is proud of the fact that her family has grown stronger over the years thanks to constant and open communication.

Now, she finds it easier to keep in touch than ever before: thanks to an enterprising friend who sells Globe prepaid cards, Ronald is able to send Weng call card numbers so that she can load up her phone more often and call anytime. Because of Globe's tipid IDD US$0.30/min on calls to Saudi Arabia, Ronald's family can keep in touch more easily.

Weng now enjoys talking to her husband longer and more often. Ronald also enjoys listening to Rizle, now 12 years old, who is often playfully interrupted by their now two-year-old bunso, Ronan.

"Napakasulit at napakadali na talaga tawagan si Ronald. Kailangan lang mag-dial ng 12800 + (country code) + (area code) + (phone number)," enthuses Weng.

With affordable rates and relevant services, Globe has brought families like Ronald's closer, helping them look forward to the future safe in the knowledge that their dreams, like their families, are always within reach.

"Di na ko nalalayo kay Ronald, dahil sa Globe, parang andiyan lang siya." Weng notes.

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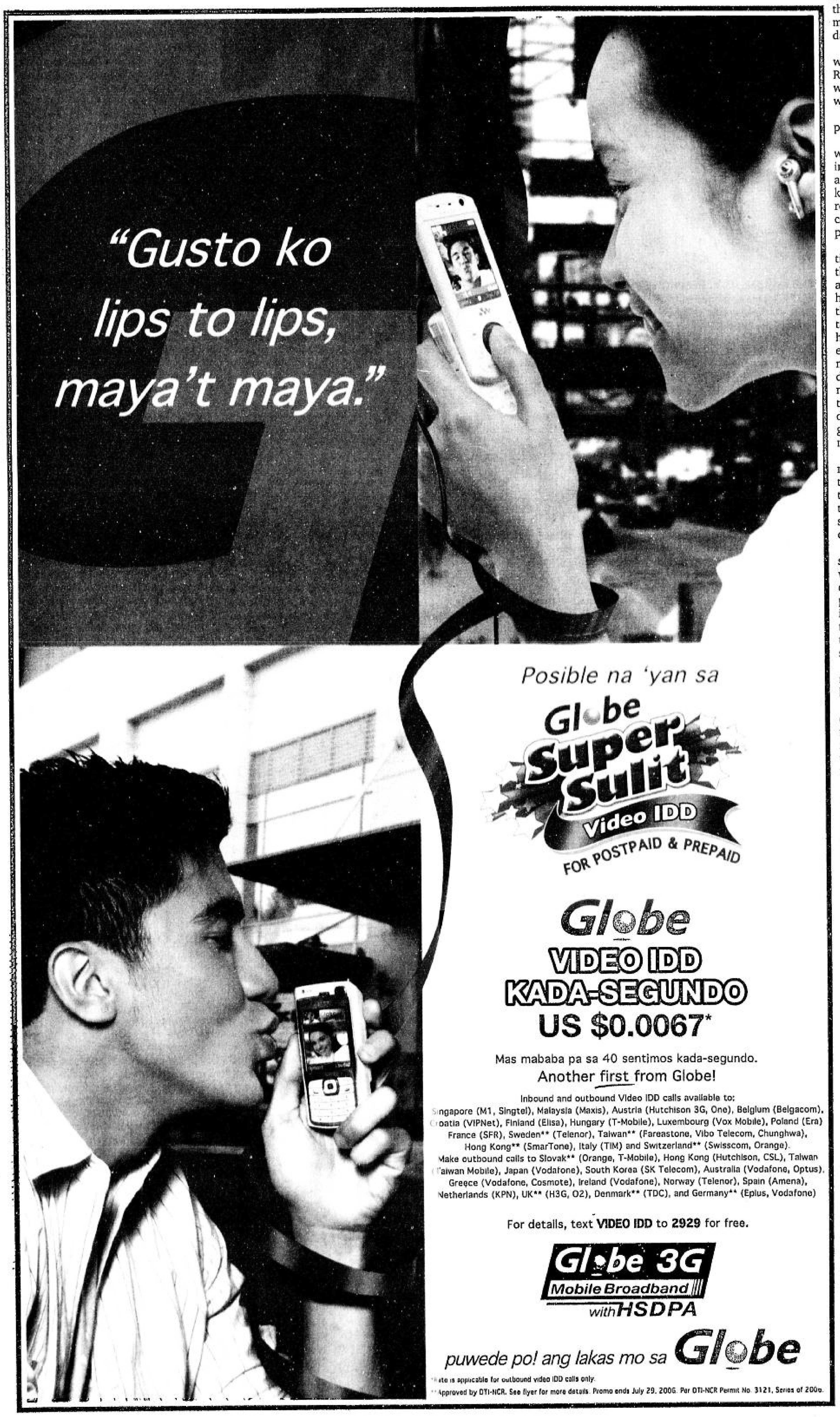
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ADVT

Japan presses ahead with N. Korea sanctions

UNITED NATIONS—OVER CHINESE and Russian objections, Japan introduced a draft Security Council resolution that would impose sanctions on North Korea for its series of rocket test-launches and also order a halt to its development of ballistic missiles.

Backed by the United States, Britain and France, the resolution condemns the series of missile launches that the North conducted Wednesday after both its enemies and allies around the world warned it not to.

By putting forth the resolution on Friday, Japan risked a showdown with China and Russia, which have said they oppose sanctions or even passing a legally binding resolution on the issue. They want a more mild council statement that would chastise the North for the launches, and go no further.

"If this resolution is put to a vote, definitely there will be no unity in the Security Council," China's UN Ambassador Wang Guangya said. He refused to say, however, if China would use its veto to sink the resolution or abstain.

Supporters of the resolution decided at a meeting Friday afternoon not to call for a vote over the weekend after some council members asked for more time to consider the resolution.

France's UN Ambassador Jean-Marc de La Sabliere said a decision on when a vote will be held will be made Monday morning.

Japan's Ambassador Kenzo Oshima said he had wanted a vote on the draft Saturday, yet he and other diplomats said negotiations continued on the resolution.

That raised the possibility that the decision to introduce the resolution was, in part, a negotiating tactic meant to win concessions from China and Russia.

Diplomats and US officials also left the door open for more talks. One senior US official said it was unlikely that the draft would be voted on over the weekend, because diplomats want to give China, the North's main ally, time to talk to Pyongyang.

Chinese officials said a delegation would go to Pyongyang early next week to discuss the issue.

"There is a hint that states want to see what the Chinese can do," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the strategy had not been made public.

North Korea set off an international furor Wednesday when it tested seven missiles, all of which landed in the Sea of Japan without causing any damage. The blasts apparently included a long-range Taepodong-2—potentially capable of hitting the western United States. It broke up less than a minute after takeoff.

The draft introduced Friday was tougher than previous versions.

It would bar nations from procuring missiles or missile related "items, material goods and technology" from North Korea, or transferring financial resources connected to the North's program. The North would also be barred from acquiring items that could be used to build missiles.

China and Russia fear that Security Council sanctions risk isolating North Korea further and spoiling any chance of resuming six-party talks on its nuclear program. Pyongyang has said sanctions from the Security Council would be tantamount to a declaration of war.

They could veto or abstain on the resolution. But even abstentions from the two nations risk weakening the message to North Korea, which leaders from around the world, including President George W. Bush, don't want to do.

"What matters most of all is for Kim Jong-il to see the world speak with one voice," Bush said at a news conference in Chicago, referring to the North Korean leader. "That's the purpose, really."

One possible compromise would be for Japan to strip out the sanctions from the resolution, as long as the draft retains a condemnation and the order for the North to stop developing and testing ballistic missiles. It would also still be written under Chapter 7 of the UN charter, which means it could be enforced militarily. *AP*

RIOT policemen stand behind a defaced portrait of North Korean leader Kim Jong-il during a rally against North Korea's missile launching near the presidential house in Seoul, July 5. AP

US backs informal Pyongyang talks

SEOUL—THE UNITED STATES, FACING OPposition to proposed UN sanctions against North Korea for this week's missile tests, said on Saturday it backed China's proposal for informal talks to reengage the reclusive state.

China—the closest North Korea has for an ally—and Russia oppose a draft UN Security Council resolution by Japan to bar missile-related financial and technology transactions with North Korea because of the missile launches.

Instead the focus is shifting towards ways to restart six-nation talks, stalled since late last year, aimed at persuading North Korea to end its nuclear weapons programme.

"The Chinese have talked about putting together a six-party informal. We both support that," the top US envoy for North Korea, Christopher Hill, told reporters in Seoul after a meeting with a South Korean official.

Hill was in China on Friday and flies to Japan on Sunday.

The six-party talks—joining the two Koreas with Russia, China, Japan and the United States—came to a stop last November after Washington cracked down on firms it suspected of helping Pyongyang's illicit activities such as counterfeiting.

But Hill said Washington was not about to make concessions to bring North Korea back to the table.

"This is not a time for so-called gestures of that kind," he replied when asked about unfreezing some North Korean assets in a Macau bank to help encourage North Korea back to the talks. *Reuters*

Israel pulls forces back from north Gaza

GAZA—ISRAELI FORCES WITHdrew from most of the northern Gaza Strip on Saturday after three days of fierce fighting, but clashes erupted on the outskirts of Gaza City, killing two Palestinians including a policeman.

The Israeli Army, which launched its offensive to free an abducted soldier and halt rocket fire, pulled out of the northern Gaza town of Beit Lahiya, the Erez industrial zone as well as former Israeli settlements along the Mediterranean.

Israeli forces have also pulled back from the heavily populated town of Beit Hanoun.

"The operation is not over," said an Army spokesperson. "We are acting at our own discretion and we do not rule out a return to these areas."

Israeli troops had created what amounted to a buffer zone along the strip's northern border in a bid to push rocket launchers further from Israeli population areas.

Israel troops remain in central and southern Gaza.

Palestinian witnesses said Israeli aircraft fired missiles at gunmen in the pre-dawn fighting on the edge of the densely packed neighborhood of Shijaia, a stronghold of the governing Hamas movement.

Medics said the Palestinian policeman who was shot dead was wearing his uniform. It was unclear whether he was taking part in the fighting.

An Israeli Army spokesperson said forces exchanged heavy fire with militants in the area, near the Karni commercial crossing in central Gaza, but he was unaware of any policeman being hit.

Several other Palestinians were wounded overnight, including another policeman.

The clashes near Karni took place after Israeli troops and tanks moved into the area in search of tunnels that could be used by militants, the Army said.

It was the first time fighting had broken out in the area since Israel launched its Gaza offensive last week in a bid to free captured Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit.

A third Palestinian died from wounds suffered in fighting on Friday in northern Gaza, medics said.

At least 41 Palestinians, a majority of them militants, have been killed since the Israeli operations began, according to Palestinian medics and officials.

The incursion has piled pressure on the Hamas-led Palestinian government, already reeling from a Western aid embargo, and has dashed any hope of renewing peace talks anytime soon.

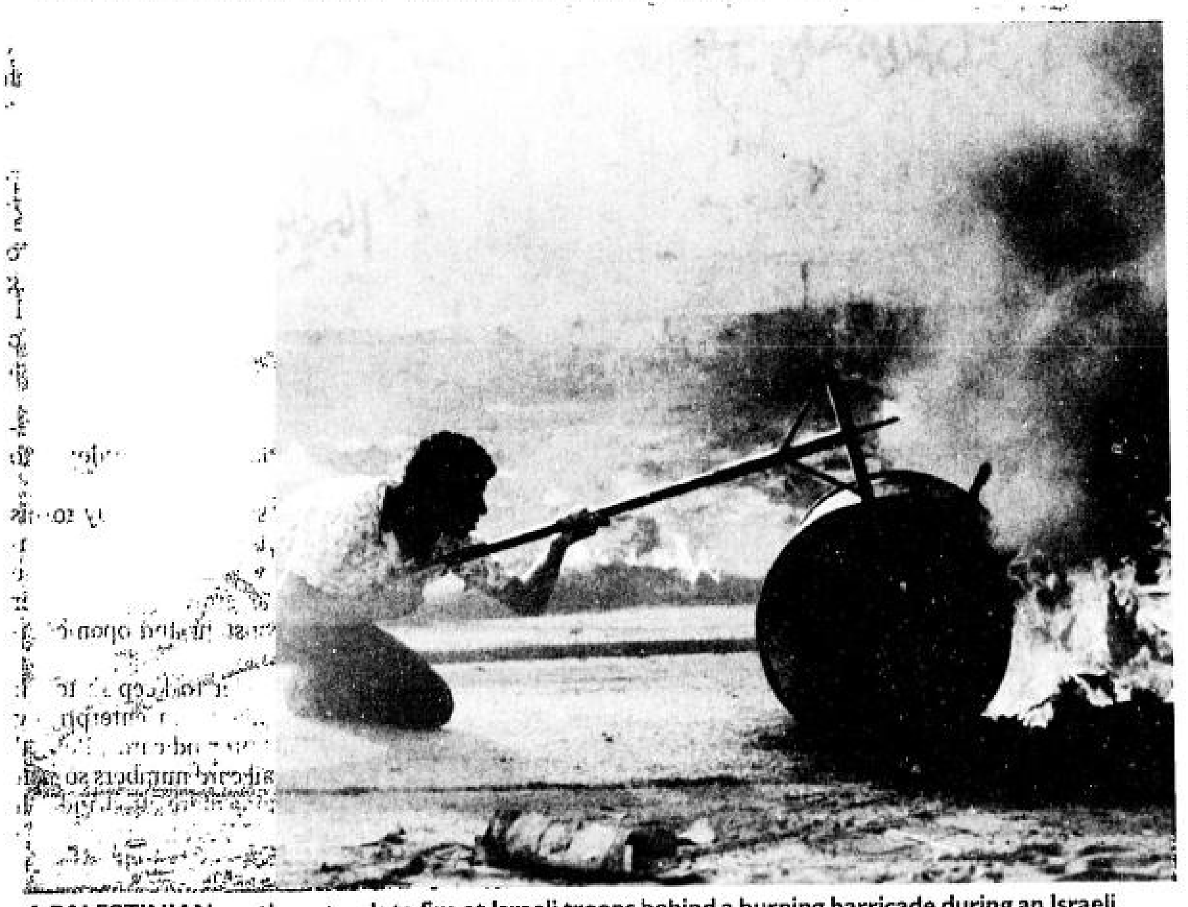
An Israeli Army spokesperson said the Karni operation was not as large scale as the one launched along Gaza's northern tip, where tanks and troops had taken over former Jewish settlements.

Israel has also established a hold in southern Gaza in the strip's disused international airport.

Israeli forces killed seven Palestinians in clashes with gunmen across northern Gaza on Friday.

That followed clashes on Thursday in which 20 Palestinians and one Israeli soldier were killed in the bloodiest day of fighting since 2004, drawing accusations from the European Union that Israel was using excessive force.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan also expressed concern about the escalating tensions. *Reuters*



A PALESTINIAN youth pretends to fire at Israeli troops behind a burning barricade during an Israeli Army incursion in Beit Lahiya, in the northen Gaza Strip, July 7. AP

Bail for Pakistani women imprisoned for adultery

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN—Hundreds of women were likely to be freed on bail from Pakistan prisons on Saturday, after the president amended a law to pave the way for their release, officials said.

President Gen. Pervez Musharraf on Friday signed an ordinance granting bail rights to women charged with adultery and other minor crimes under harsh Islamic and other criminal laws.

Musharraf, a moderate, has tried in the past to reform Islamic laws on blasphemy and women's rights—but has backed off due to strong opposition in deeply conservative Pakistan.

"We are prepared to free on bail about 20 women, including 16 inmates who are facing charges for adultery under Hadood (Islamic) laws," said Fakhra Azra Azra, a jail official in Multan, a main city in the eastern province of Punjab.

Mohammed Arshad, an official at Adiala Jail near the capital, Islamabad, also said they were processing documents to release women.

He gave no further details, but the minister for women's affairs, Sumaira Malik, has said the law will initially help release 1,300 women.

"President Musharraf has taken a bold decision to protect the rights of women and save them from the misuse of Islamic laws," Malik told reporters Friday.

High-profile human right activist I.A. Rahman praised the development, but demanded repeal of the Hadood Ordinance, which is based on the Quran and Islamic tradition.

"Musharraf has taken one good step, but he should do more. He should scrap the Hadood Ordinance to save women from any future persecution," Rahman said.

Since the Hadood Ordinance was introduced in 1979 by late dictator Gen. Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq, Pakistan has had two parallel, sometimes overlapping legal systems: One based on British common law and another based on Islamic law.

Under the ordinance, women can be sentenced to death by stoning if found guilty of having sex outside of marriage. Drinking is punishable by 80 lashes and theft with the amputation of the right hand.

However, such punishments have not been carried out in Pakistan because courts from the Islamic and ordinary legal systems overturn each others' decisions in unresolved jurisdictional battles.

Malik did not distribute copies of the amendment, which she described as "a great step by the government," and only said Musharraf had signed it.

Former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who Musharraf overthrew in a 1999 coup, made an unsuccessful bid to base the nation's entire legal system on Islam. *AP*

Mexico's left rules out violence in vote dispute

MEXICO CITY—MEXICO'S LEFTIST presidential candidate, smarting from losing a contested election, will use only peaceful means to protest the result and will accept a court ruling on the vote, an aide said.

In comments that eased fears of widespread unrest, a political advisor to leftist Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said the fight to overturn the result would not get out of hand.

"Everything we do will be peaceful," aide Ricardo Monreal said. "We have never used violence and we never will."

Lopez Obrador is a former Indian welfare officer with a long history of launching political protests. Investors fear violent demonstrations after conservative Felipe Calderon defeated him by a tiny margin at last Sunday's vote.

Two vote counts showed Calderon, a former energy minister who favors free trade with the United States, won by less than a percentage point.

In a sign of US recognition of the new leader, President George W. Bush called Calderon on Friday to congratulate him on his victory and said he looked forward to working with him.

Lopez Obrador called a Saturday rally in the huge Zocalo Square, which can hold over 100,000 people, to protest what he says are irregularities in the voting.

"We have evidence that returns from 50,000 polling stations were altered," Monreal said. The left has yet to present specific evidence of systematic fraud, although it has given details of apparently small irregularities.

Calderon, a 43-year-old lawyer, appealed for calm.

"I hope and pray that both Mr. Lopez and PRD leaders show responsibility and sense," he told foreign journalists.

Even though Lopez Obrador's Party of the Democratic Revolution, or PRD, governs the capital, several states and hundreds of municipalities, it will not try to create an institutional crisis by pitting those local authorities against the federal government to change the voter result, Monreal said. *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

Officers negligent in Haditha probe

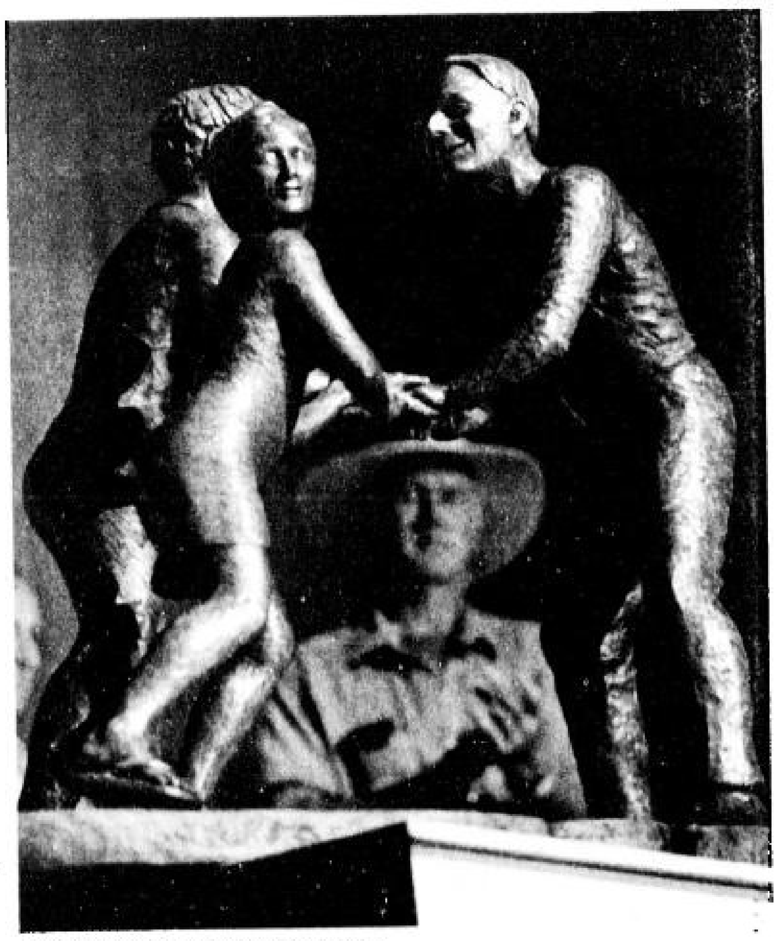
WASHINGTON—Top US Marine Corps officers in Iraq failed to properly investigate reports of the killings of 24 civilians by Marines in the town of Haditha, the New York Times reported Saturday, citing two Pentagon officials. Lt. Gen. Peter Chiarelli, currently the second-ranking US commander in Iraq, has found that a division commander, Maj. Gen. Richard Huck, and the commander of the Second Regimental Combat Team, Col. Stephen Davis, failed to investigate contradictions and inaccuracies in the initial incident report, the officials told the Times. The November 2005 massacre in the western town has been a black eye for US forces trying to gain the support from Iraqi civilians. *AFP*

Drinking tea may prevent bile stones

NEW YORK—Results of a study conducted in China indicate that drinking tea reduces the risk of bile stones and cancer, especially among women. Bile stones, which are often seen in women and have been linked to obesity, occur in the ducts that transfer bile from the liver to the small intestine. If the stones block the opening of the gallbladder, they can cause discomfort and pain, typically located just below the rib cage on the right side of the abdomen. At this stage, gallbladder removal, or "cholecystectomy," is often required. Serious complications from bile stones are uncommon. By contrast, "biliary tract cancers . . . are rare but highly fatal," Dr. Ann W. Hsing, of the National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Maryland, and colleagues write in the International Journal of Cancer. In women, drinking at least one cup of tea per day for at least 6 months seemed to cut the risks of bile stones by 27 percent, gallbladder cancer by 44 percent, and bile duct cancer by 35 percent. In men, tea drinking had a similar effect, but not of the magnitude seen in women. Certain chemicals in tea may prevent cells from growing abnormally and may have anti-inflammatory effects that reduce the risk of these bile tract diseases, Hsing's team explains. *Reuters*

Spain confirms 1st bird flu case

MADRID, Spain—Spain has recorded its first case of H5N1 bird flu, the government said Friday. The strain was found in a wild bird in a marshland area outside the northern city of Vitoria, the ministry said in a statement. The version of the H5N1 strain found in this case is highly virulent, it added. *AP*



CANADA 'HOSPITALITY'

A controversial statue commemorating the welcoming of US military draft dodgers to Canada during the Vietnam War 35 years ago unveiled in Castlegar, British Columbia July 7. REUTERS

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Terror plot on New York City tunnels

Al-Qaida suicide attack plot foiled by the FBI

NEW YORK—THE FBI SAID FRIDAY IT HAD foiled a terror plot by a group of al-Qaida followers to carry out suicide attacks on train tunnels in New York, with three suspects already in custody overseas.

"This is a plot that would have involved martyrdom, explosives and certain of the tubes that connect New Jersey with Lower Manhattan," Mark Mershon, head of the FBI's New York office, told reporters.

Mershon said a yearlong investigation had identified eight "principal players" in the conspiracy to bomb tunnels under the Hudson River used by PATH rapid transit trains that carry more than 215,000 commuters a day.

"We believe we intercepted this group early in the plotting and that in fact the plan has largely been disrupted," Mershon said.

The alleged mastermind, Assem Hammoud, a 31-year-old Lebanese national, was arrested and charged in Beirut.

Mershon said two other suspects related to the plot had been arrested overseas but not yet charged. He did not specify where the arrests were made, but added that six foreign governments were helping with the "ongoing" investigation.

None of the plot principals was believed to be in the United States, but officials told ABC News that some may be in Canada.

The US television network also reported that the plot was uncovered a year ago by US and Canadian officials on Islamist chat rooms.

According to Mershon, Hammoud had acknowledged being the plan's mastermind and a member of al-Qaida who had pledged his allegiance to Osama bin Laden.

"That's part of our comfort level in indicating that we think this is largely disrupted," he said.

The Lebanese security services would only say that the suspect had admitted under interrogation to belonging to an extremist organization and preparing "a significant act of terrorism" targeting the New York transport network.

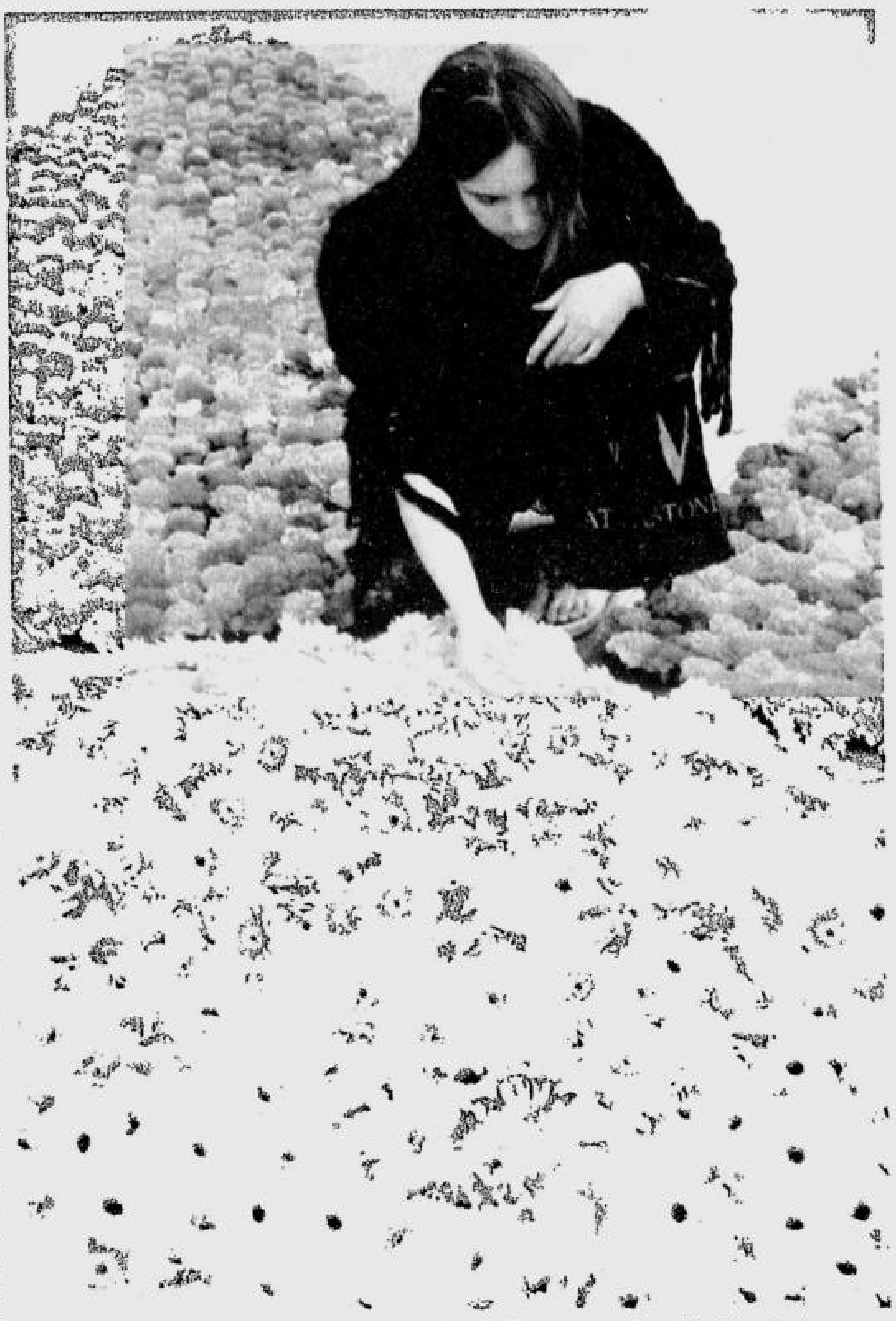
He was arrested on April 24 after a "long period" of surveillance that focused on his Internet use, they said.

Initial reports had identified the Holland Tunnel—the main road link under the Hudson River—as the principal target, but the FBI said the group had focused on the PATH tunnels that originate from the World Trade Center site.

Mershon said the plot had matured to the point where the group was preparing to carry out surveillance of the targets, establish a "regiment of attack" and acquire the necessary materials.

"At that point I think it's entirely appropriate to take it down," he added.

New York City has been on a heightened state of terror alert ever since the Sept. 11, 2001 attack, and transport security was further ramped up in the wake of the 2005 bombings on the London transport system that marked their first anniversary Friday. *AFP*



A WOMAN lays a flower on the floral tribute after the Commemoration of the First Anniversary service for the July 7th bombings, in Queen Mary's Gardens, Regent's Park, London, July 7. REUTERS

One year on, London cops warn of more bombings

LONDON—BRITAIN MARKED THE FIRST anniversary of the London suicide bombings with flowers, candles and a two-minute silence on Friday as the city's police chief said another attack now looked more likely.

A year after four young British Islamists blew themselves up on London's transport system, killing 52 people and wounding 700, Metropolitan Police Commissioner Ian Blair described the threat faced by Britain as "grim."

"There are, as we speak, people in the United Kingdom planning further atrocities," he told BBC Radio. "Since July, the threat has palpably increased."

Across the country, people fell silent at midday in memory of the dead.

Tennis fans fell silent at the Wimbledon championships and Queen Elizabeth paused for reflection at a church service in the Scottish capital Edinburgh.

"It is a chance for the whole nation to come together to offer comfort and support to those who lost loved ones or were injured on that terrible day," Prime Minister Tony Blair said in a statement.

The prime minister later joined grieving families and people injured in the attacks at an emotional service in London's Regent's Park.

Saba Mozakka's voice faltered as she read a translation of a Persian poem in tribute to her mother Behnaz, 47, who died in the bombings.

Family members then laid mauve and yellow flowers in a flower-shaped mosaic in memory of the victims.

Earlier, remembrance candles were lit under the vast dome of London's St. Paul's Cathedral at 8:50 a.m. and at 9:47 a.m.—the times the bombs went off—and wreaths were laid in Tavistock Square, where the last of the four bombers detonated his explosives on a double-decker bus.

Londoners have been living with the fear of a second attack.

The fact no one has been charged in connection with Western Europe's first suicide attacks has added to unease. *Reuters*

Suicide reveals taste of cyanide

NEW DELHI—THE CASE IS A TRAGEDY, BUT A DOCTOR says it solved a long unanswered question—what does the deadly poison cyanide taste like?

An Indian man who committed suicide left a hastily scrawled note describing the taste of the fatal toxin, the Hindustan Times newspaper reported Saturday.

"Doctors, potassium cyanide. I have tasted it. It burns the tongue and tastes acrid," he wrote, according to the paper.

It is not clear why the man, identified as M.P. Prasad, a goldsmith, killed himself, because he died before he completed his suicide note, local police chief K. Pramod told the paper.

Local police could not immediately be reached to confirm the report.

Pramod said it appears as if the man checked into a hotel, mixed the cyanide with some alcohol and stirred it with the back of the same pen he was using to write the note.

But he may have licked the back of the pen before completing the note, which is interrupted by the hastily scribbled note describing the taste, Pramod said. *AP*

Cholesterol drugs may treat hepatitis C

WASHINGTON—CHOLESTEROL drugs called statins may help treat hepatitis C infections, Japanese researchers reported on Friday.

Tests in lab dishes suggest that some statin drugs may help stop the hepatitis C virus from replicating, they wrote in the journal Hepatology, published by the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases.

An estimated 170 million people worldwide are infected with the hepatitis C virus. The standard treatment is a combination therapy of interferon and ribavirin but it only helps about 55 percent of patients.

The rest risk progression to cirrhosis and liver cancer.

Masanori Ikeda of Okayama University in Japan and colleagues tested several statin drugs against the virus in lab dishes.

All the drugs except pravastatin interfered with the virus to some degree. Fluvastatin, sold by Novartis under the name Lescol, had the strongest effect, they reported.

It may be that certain proteins are required for the hepatitis C virus to replicate and that some statins block the action of these proteins, the researchers said.

They tested the statins along with with interferon, and found each worked even better when combined with the second drug.

"We clearly demonstrated that co-treatment of interferon and fluvastatin was an overwhelmingly effective treatment," the researchers wrote. *Reuters*

Pope in Spain for family values gathering

VALENCIA, SPAIN—POPE BENEDICT XVI arrived in Spain on Saturday to attend a gathering on family values, launching a whirlwind visit to a country where church influence has waned and the government has angered the Vatican by instituting liberal reforms such as gay marriage.

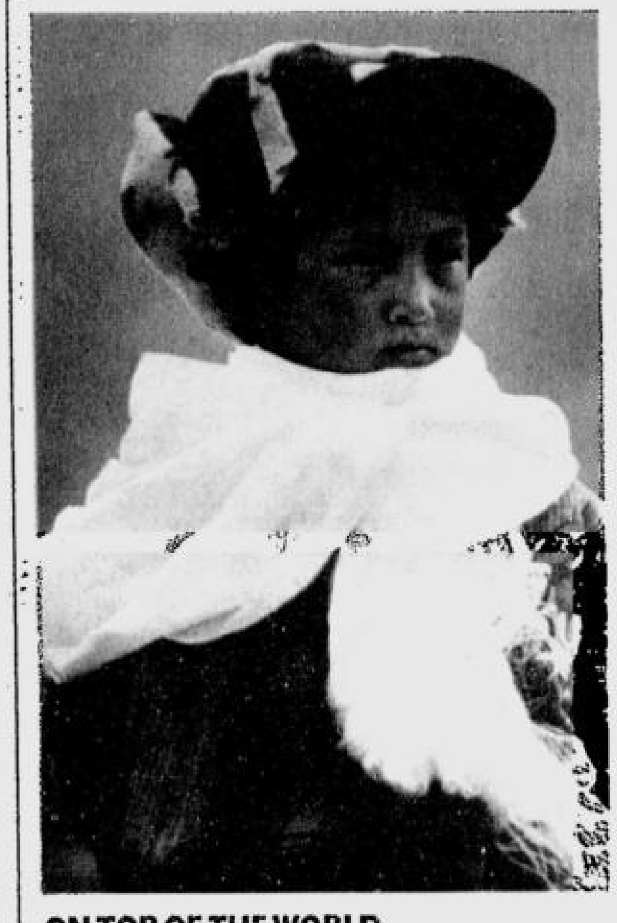
Spain's King Juan Carlos, Queen Sofia and Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero greeted the Pope as he arrived from Rome as a military band played the national anthems of the Vatican and Spain.

Also on hand were hundreds of faithful wearing caps with the white and yellow colors of the Vatican to welcome the pontiff for his 26-hour visit.

The crowd cheered as the Pope stepped off the aircraft in a flowing white robe and made his way down a red carpet.

But despite the festive atmosphere, the visit is being overshadowed by a subway derailment on Monday that claimed 42 lives.

Shortly after arriving, the Pope was to ride into town in his bulletproof "pope mobile" to pray at the station where Spain's worst-ever subway accident occurred. *AP*



ON TOP OF THE WORLD
A young Tibetan boy looks out at the grasslands in his small village in the district of Naqu in Tibet, China Thursday July 6. AP

Pavarotti recovering from cancer surgery

NEW YORK—THE TENOR OF HIS TIMES to opera buffs and a celebrity whose personality captivated even casual fans, Luciano Pavarotti was recovering Friday from surgery for pancreatic cancer—a kind of cancer often considered a death sentence.

His manager said Pavarotti is recovering well, and two cancer experts said surgery offered improved odds for survival.

The 70-year-old Italian singer, recognizable around the world with his smiling bearded face and heavy bulk, was preparing to leave New York last week to resume a farewell tour when doctors discovered a malignant pancreatic mass, manager Terri Robson said from her London office. All his remaining 2006 concerts have been canceled.

"Fortunately, the mass was able to be completely removed at surgery," she said, adding that "his physicians are encouraged by the physical and emotional resilience of their patient."

Because pancreatic cancer is usually diagnosed at an advanced stage, it has one of the worst prognoses of all types of malignancies. Fewer than four percent of patients are still alive five years after diagnosis, and the majority die within a year.

But when the cancer is contained and can be surgically removed—as was Pavarotti's—"that means he has a chance for long-term survival," said Dr. Dan Laheru, an oncologist at the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center in Baltimore, one of the world's leading institutions for pancreatic cancer.

Current studies show that 15 percent to 20 percent of patients with pancreatic cancer who have had surgery are still alive five years after being diagnosed, Laheru said. Of such patients, 63 percent survive one year and 42 percent two years.

Dr. Len Lichtenfeld of the American Cancer Society said: "The fact that he had surgery suggests his disease was localized, and the outlook is more optimistic."

At an age when most tenors are long retired, Pavarotti's infrequent performances in recent years capped a four-decade career at the pinnacle of the music industry.

He took advantage of the television age to become a widely marketed artist—especially as one of the Three Tenors, including Placido Domingo and Jose Carreras, who sang together at four World Cup soccer finals. *AP*

PAVAROTTI wearing a Chinese opera headdress in a Dec. 7, 2005 photo. REUTERS

WHAT'S INSIDE

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Sunday SPORTS

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Text us your feedback: Inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Federer battles Nadal anew /A26

Must-win for Bulls today

Giants seek imposing 3-0 lead

By June Navarro

GREGORIO:

GUIAO:

YENG GUIAO STILL DOES NOT FEEL THE PBA PHILIPpine Cup championship to be slipping away at this time.

"I still feel that our chances are good," Guiao said, a few minutes after his Red Bull squad got sideswiped, 93-82, Friday night to fall 0-2 behind the rampaging Purefoods Chunkee Giants in the best-of-seven series.

"I'm not going to say that it's (championship) slipping away," Guiao added. "We just have to find the right formula and if we do, we could catch up.

"But we have to win our first game first."

That first win must come at 6:10 tonight when Game 3 is played at the Araneta Coliseum, otherwise, it could be lights out for the Bulls.

No team in the history of the league has ever come back from 0-3 down to win a best-of-seven series and Guiao can't afford to have his Bulls fall into such a hole if Red Bull wants to keep its bid of sweeping both titles staked this year.

"We have to talk and see what's wrong with the desire level of the team," added Guiao. "They're (Giants) showing a higher level of determination, so it's a problem of desire and motivation."

Guiao, whose collection of championships does not include an all-Filipino title, could be addressing the right problem.

For Red Bull, in the first two games of the series, had shown that it could come back from huge deficits to lead, only to lose steam during crunch time.

Purefoods' Ryan Gregorio, on the other hand, said that he will make it sure that his team comes out prepared, even with a 2-0 lead.

"The only advantage that we have is that we only need to win two more (games) and they four," Gregorio said after the Game 2 win. "This (win) is over and done with. We need to start working for Game 3."

Contributions from the Purefoods bench and the heroics of Richard Yee have been the keys to the series thus far.

After a double-double performance in the opener, Yee dropped all of his 17 points in the final half of Game 2, typifying the desire of the Giants to win it all.

"Games in this series will be played in spurts. The first team which gets frustrated will lose," said Gregorio. "We'll come out really prepared every time we step on the court."

Marc Pingris bounced back from a lethargic Game 1 by putting up 21 points and 12 rebounds, six of them offensive boards. James Yap was in his usual deadly form while Kerby Raymundo finished just three assists shy of a triple-double.

GAME TODAY

(Araneta Coliseum)

6:10 p.m.—Red Bull vs Purefoods

(Game 3 of Finals)

Game 1—Purefoods d. Red Bull, 101-97

Game 2—Purefoods d. Red Bull, 93-82

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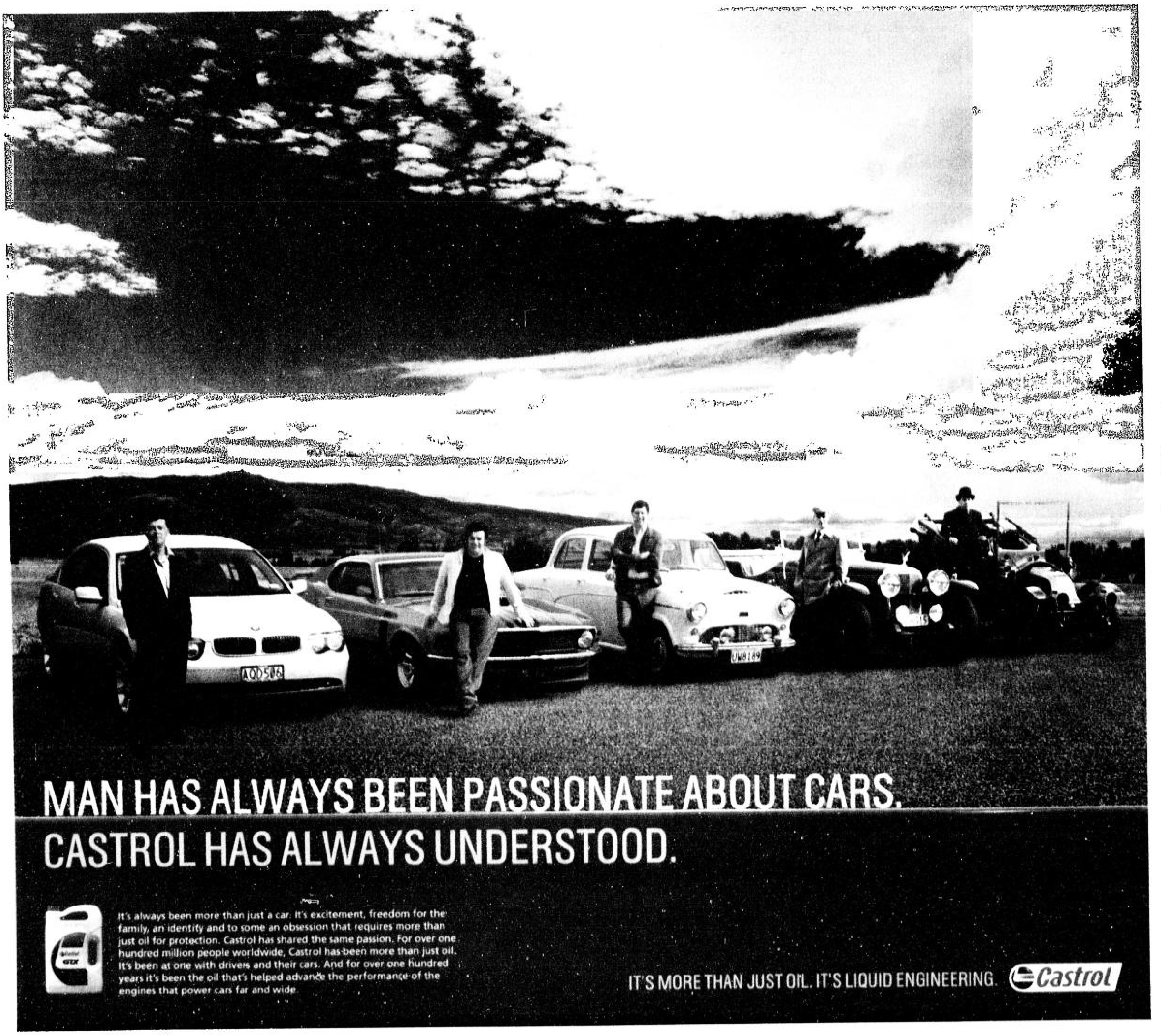

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Federal Tyres lends support to RP-Air 21

FEDERAL TYRES, ONE OF THE LEADING names in the country's automotive industry, has agreed to support the RP-Air 21 team seeing action in the 15th Super Kung Sheung Cup international invitational basketball championships from July 18-23 in Hong Kong.

Federal Tyres head Ronnie Co said the support is part of the company's long-term commitment to help in the promotion of local sports, especially basketball.

"We're happy to be a part of RP-Air21's campaign to bring honors in the Hong Kong meet," said Co.

Air21 president and delegation head Lito Alvarez and coaches Johnny Tam and Bo Perasol lauded the support of Federal Tyres.

Alvarez said the Filipinos are hoping to duplicate, if not surpass, their third-place finish in the tournament the past two years.

Team captain Wynne Arboleda and brothers Yancy and Ranidel de Ocampo are expected to carry the fight for the Filipinos.

Joining them are slam dunk champion K.G. Canaleta, Mark Telan, Bruce Dacia, Leo Avenido, Homer Se, Stephen Padilla and Ryan Bernardo.

Last year, the Jerry Codiñera-led RP-FedEx team was third behind host Hong Kong and the Los Angeles-based Asian American Sports Club.

The Filipinos posted three wins against SEABA champion Malaysia, Thailand and Fukien (China) and two losses against Hong Kong and AASC.

The Philippines' best finish in the annual tournament came in 2002 when the Burlington-sponsored RP team led by Rommel Adducul and handled by Tam brought home the title.

Actually, this will be the 10th time that the Philippines will participate in the tournament organized by the HKBA in 1990.

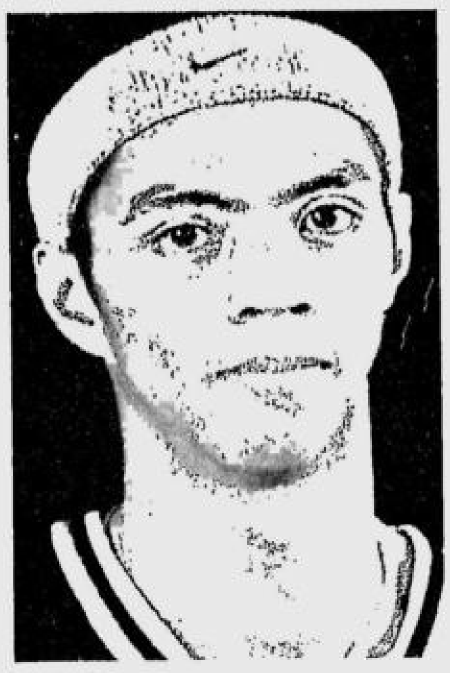
Philips Sardines, then handled by multi-titled coach Joe Lipa, finished third behind two Hong Kong club teams in the inaugural tournament in 1990. The following year, Philips Sardines wound up fifth in an eight-team cast.

Goyu and Sons represented the country twice, finishing fifth in 1992 and 1993. In 1994, Atlanta Pipes also came in fifth.

The Cebuana Lhuillier-backed RP team of coaches Aric del Rosario and Dong Vergeire went home with the runner-up trophy after losing to the Mainland China-reinforced Hong Kong side.

PSC employees' rights undermined

THE PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISSION, HEADED by chair William Ramirez, slammed the efforts of PSC employees to negotiate on rights and additional benefits for all rank-and-file employees of the government sports agency. A memorandum from lawyer Maribel Rodriguez, Legal Affairs Head, was received by the PSC Employees Association citing the reasons for the disapproval of the proposed Ground Rules for the Collective Negotiations Agreement through a board resolution. "We will not be taken aback by the disapproval of the ground rules for the CNA on the PSC Board's basis that employees do not have the right to form unions nor to negotiate with management," said engineer Loreno de Guia, PSCEA president.



SANTOS: Top prospect

Realtors get top draft pick

By June Navarro

STA. LUCIA REALTY, A TEAM IN DIRE need of fresh talents and younger legs, has seized the top overall pick in the annual PBA Rookie Draft next month.

After winding up dead-last in the team standings after two conferences, Sta. Lucia edged out the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals for the pick, which they could obviously use to rebuild.

Possibilities are aplenty for the Realtors, who have a wide array of promising rookies to choose from with versatile former Far Eastern big man Arwind Santos on top of the list.

LA Tenorio of Ateneo and La Salle's Joseph Yeo are also worth looking into if the Realtors are aspiring to fortify their backcourt.

Kelly Williams of Magnolia in the Philippine Basketball League and Joe De Vance of Toyota-Otis are trying to complete their citizenship papers in time for the draft tentatively scheduled on Aug. 13.

After losing the top pick, the Phone Pals automatically transferred the second overall draft rights to the Air21 Express as part of the deal that sent Yancy de Ocampo to Talk 'N Text in 2003.

Third in the drafting order, Coca-Cola also gave up its rights to San Miguel Beer as part of a three-way trade with the Express last season involving Dale Singson and Gary David..

The Beermen shipped Singson and got Coca-Cola's pick in return even as the Express will select fourth overall.

Barangay Ginebra got the No. 5 selection from the Beermen following a three-way deal that sent Nic Belasco to Alaska for Brandon Cablay, and the sixth pick from the Jun Limpot-Andy Seigle-Rodney Santos trade in 2003.

Choosing seventh overall is Alaska while the loser in the ongoing Philippine Cup Finals between Red Bull and Purefoods secures the eighth pick. The champion will seal its claim on the ninth pick.

Expansion team Welcoat will then pick last in the first round, 10th overall, and first in the second.

The Red Bull pick, however, would go to the Phone Pals as part of another three-way deal with the Aces that sent Rich Alvarez to the Bulls, Willie Miller to the Aces, and Don Allado to Talk 'N Text.

UE rips Adamson; Ateneo up

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST WARRIORS WASTED NO TIME SHOWING why they were invincible all summer.

Unstoppable in the second half, the Warriors smothered the Adamson Falcons, 72-57, in the season opener yesterday of the 69th UAAP men's basketball tournament at the Araneta Coliseum.

The UE stars played a big role, with junior guard Marcy Arellano pouring in 10 of his 15 points in the pivotal third period and Mark Borboran and Bonbon Custodio teaming up for another 27 markers.

The Warriors, champions in three pre-season tournaments who are gunning for a UAAP title in 21 years, also got plenty of support from forward Elmer Espiritu, who chipped in eight points, five rebounds and three blocks.

While the Warriors practically had a field day, it was different as far as Ateneo, another pre-tournament favorite, was concerned.

The Blue Eagles struggled past National in the second match, needing a big finishing kick to dispose of the hard-fighting Bulldogs, 75-70.

Fifth-year forward JC Intal paced the team with 17 points, including a running jumper in the last 54.1 seconds that cushioned the Eagles' victory.

For UE coach Dindo Pumaren, it was hardly a perfect game.

"We started flat, but I can't blame the players because they were so excited," said Pumaren. "I got angry at halftime. Every time we pulled away, they would relax. One problem is they're too confident, they feel like they can beat every one."

Pumaren coached under the microscope, so to speak. And he, too, felt the opening-day jitters.

Aside from his father and former UE coach Pilo in attendance, former UE stars Robert Jaworski, Allan Caidic, Jerry Codiñera, James Yap, Bong Ravena and past coaches Roehl Nadurata, Jimmy Mariano and the legendary Baby Dalupan dotted the UE gallery.

"I'll be honest, I was nervous at the start," admitted Pumaren. "Everyone was there. And it was our first game, so the expectations were high."

"Supposedly on paper we're among the top teams, but we didn't display that (yesterday)," said Ateneo coach Norman Black. "I'm not happy with the way we played, but I'm happy that we won. I give NU a lot of credit. They were switching their defense. We found it difficult recognizing their defense."

GAMES TODAY *(Ninoy Aquino Stadium)*
9 a.m.—NU vs Ateneo (Jrs)
11 a.m.—UE vs FEU (Jrs)
2 p.m.—UST vs Adamson (Jrs/Srs)

The Warriors played in cruise control in the final period after Arellano, Borboran and Espiritu joined hands in a 12-2 run that gave UE a 43-28 lead.

But before their brilliant second half, the Warriors only connected on a field goal in the last eight minutes of the second quarter as the Falcons closed to within five at the half, 31-26, from 14-29 down.

Imposing center Ken Bono turned out to be the lone bright spot for the Falcons, delivering an all-around performance with a game-high 20 points, 11 rebounds, three assists and two blocks.

Turnovers, meanwhile, hurt the Bulldogs as three consecutive errors in a crucial stretch in the last five minutes of play aided their downfall.

The miscues allowed the Eagles to push ahead, 73-65, heading into the last 3:48 after trailing for the last time at 64-65.

The scores:

First Game

UE 72—Arellano 15, Borboran 14, Custodio 13, Espiritu 8, Martinez 6, Thiele 4, Bandaying 4, Gregorio 4, Canizares 4, Lingganay 0, Llagas 0, Labagala 0.

ADAMSON 57—Bono 20, Hugnatan 12, Pacheco 7, Cabahug 7, Canuday 6, Agustin 5, Santos 0, Yong 0, Poloyapoy 0, Basilio 0.

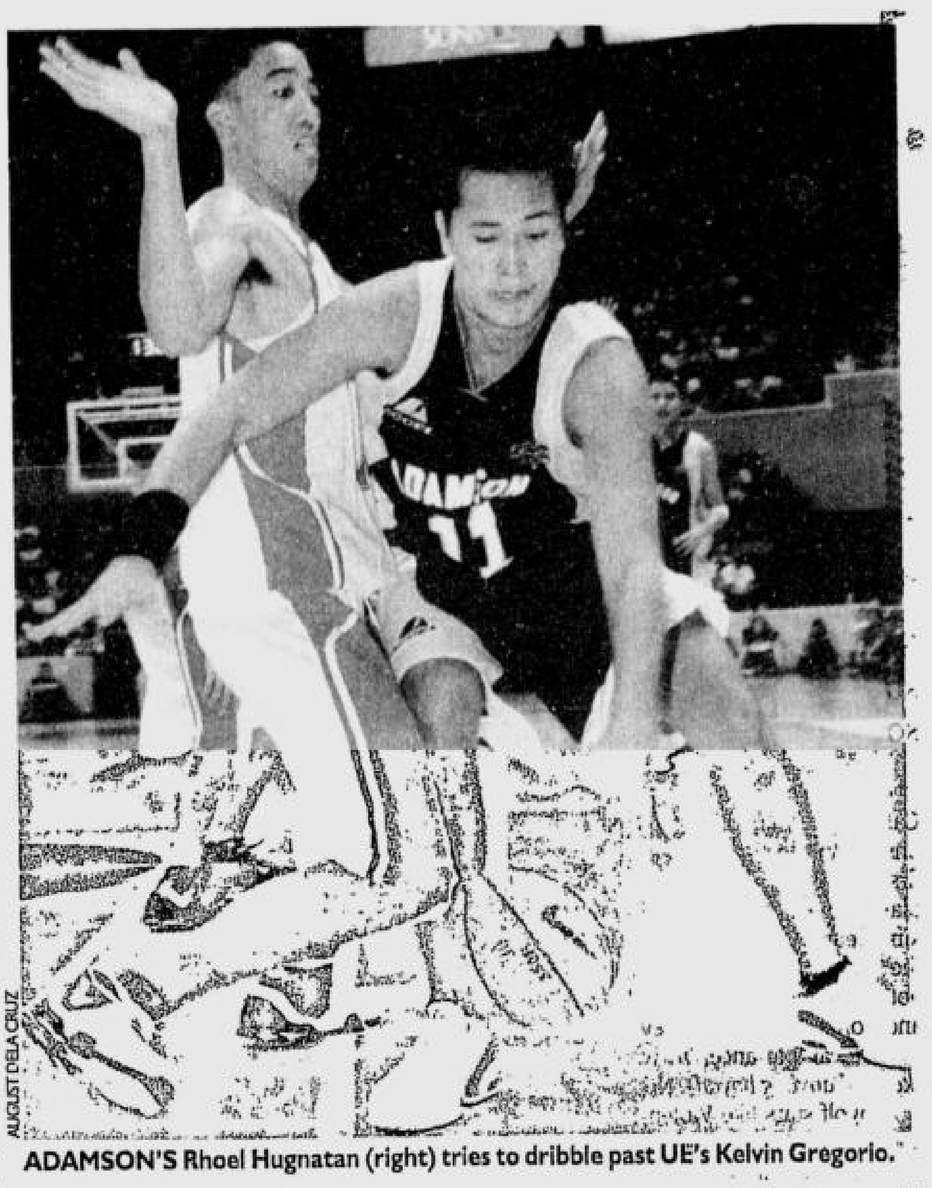
Quarters: 22-12, 31-26, 57-43, 72-57.

Second Game

ATENEO 75—Intal 17, Escalona 11, Al-Hussaini 11, Reyes 9, Kramer 9, Escueta 6, Arao 4, Tiu 3, Salamat 2, Laterre 2, Uichico 1, Barracoso 0.

NU 70—Asoro 17, Catamora 16, Fernandez 6, Jhanke 5, Flor 4, Salvado 2, Lingao-Lingao 2, Dela Cruz 2, Salamat 0, Garcia 0, Cooper 0.

Quarters: 23-22, 40-35, 56-57, 75-70.



AUGUST DELA CRUZ

ADAMSON'S Rhoel Hugnatan (right) tries to dribble past UE's Kelvin Gregorio.

Mighty roar from 2 rookie SBC Lions

SAMUEL Ekwe (right) and John Paul Escobal

RYAN LIM

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ONE HAS BEEN RECOMMENDED BY A priest from halfway across the globe while the other is a rich kid from Davao City. Together they form part of San Beda's explosive rookie package in the current NCAA men's basketball tournament.

Slotman Samuel Ekwe and guard Pong Escobal have been playing vital roles for the Red Lions in their strong 3-1 start this season, slugging it out with the league's tried and tested players like veterans.

In a team with scorers Yousif Aljamal and Rogie Menor, the duo has been making their presence felt—Ekwe with his turnaround jumpers and Escobal his slashing moves.

The 6-foot-8 Ekwe is an exchange student from Lagos, Nigeria. He came here last year on the recommendation of a Filipino priest, prompting talks that he too is taking up the vocation.

"It depends on your calling. Only God knows if I'm going to be a priest," said Ekwe after helping San Beda rout St. Benilde, 71-57, and Mapua, 69-55, in the Red Lions last two outings. He averaged 9.5 points and 12 rebounds in these two games en route to being named the NCAA Player of the Week.

In SBC's losing game to Philippine Christian University last week, the 22-year-old Ekwe scattered 15 points and hauled down 17 rebounds. Against Jose Rizal, he had 10 points, 10 rebounds and three monstrous dunks that pleased the Big Dome crowd on opening day.

"We are doing good because of this guy (Ekwe)," said San Beda coach Koy Banal. "But I also give credit to all the players for staying together."

The 6-foot Escobal, on the other hand, is the starting 2-guard from Holy Cross of Davao. The son of an engineer and a nurse in Davao City topscored with 17 points against PCU and contributed 11 points on top of eight rebounds and four assists against St. Benilde.

Banal denied that there is friction between Ekwe and some veterans like Aljamal, who was seen during the games hollering at the soft-spoken import.

"Well, Aljamal is the senior in the team and he is just acting like the leader that he is in the team. I'm sure that everything is okay with them," explained Banal.

A marketing sophomore, Ekwe said he started as a football player in Nigeria but his coach advised him to take up basketball instead like his famed countryman Hakeem Olajuwon, who became an NBA star with the Houston Rockets.

Maningding notches first Touring Car sweep

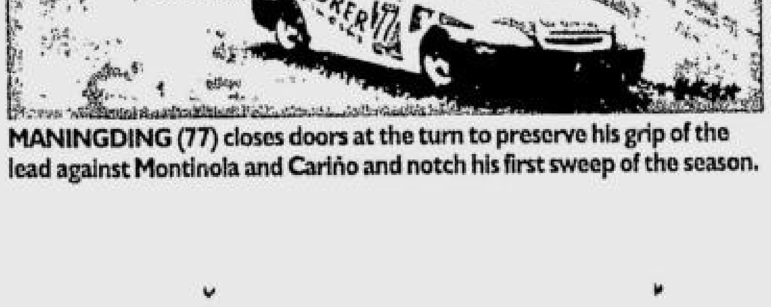
AFTER A SERIES OF CAR PROBLEMS IN THE past races, Uly Maningding of Explorer Motorsports finally had a trouble-free run and posted his first sweep of the season in Group 3 recently in the third leg of the 2006 San Mig Coffee-Petron Blaze Cup Philippine Touring Car Championships at the Batangas Racing Circuit here.

The 19-year-old Maningding, dubbed as one of the High Speed Heartthrobs, had a tough time warding off veteran JP Cariño of Bosch Intelco Racing but managed to pull away in the final four laps in the morning race of the event sanctioned by the Automobile Association Philippines.

Maningding wrapped up the 12-lap race in 22 minutes and 43.885 against Cariño's 22:48.179.

Another High Speed Heartthrob, Jeff Borja of Bosch-FS Steel Racing, finished third with a time of 2:04.849 while Nico Montinola of Akula Racing and Pacho Blanco of Velocity Motors-Race Fans Inc. checked in fourth and fifth, respectively.

Maningding was more consistent in the afternoon as he posted a faster laptime of 2:00.653, pulling away early for the unmolested triumph in 22:24.717.



MANINGDING (77) closes doors at the turn to preserve his grip of the lead against Montinola and Cariño and notch his first sweep of the season.

Orcollo braces for tough IPT finals in Vegas

ORCOLLO

A CHAMPIONSHIP against the world's elite and the prize that could set him off for life.

Those are the motivations driving Dennis Orcollo when he plays in the $2 million 2006 International Pool Tour (IPT) grand finals on July 23-30 at the Venetian Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Dubbed as the 2006 North American 8-Ball Championship, the pot is the biggest in pool history, and the $350,000 (around P14.5 million) champion's purse nearly doubles the previous record of $200,000 won by Efren "Bata" Reyes in the same event last year.

"I worked hard to get in (the grand finals)," said Orcollo in Filipino. "I will try my best to win the championship. "Anything less will be a disappointment."

He will leave for the US on July 19.

Orcollo's recent success in the US pool circuit makes him one of the favorites in the event.

An IPT official told billiards patron Perry Mariano that Orcollo's route to the grand finals was the toughest.

"The IPT admitted that the toughest leg of the qualifying round was the one ruled by Orcollo at Hard Times Billiards," said Mariano. "It's a testament to his superior skills and mental toughness."

It was one of the five US events topped by the pride of Bislig, Surigao del Sur, this year.

The other Filipinos in the 200-man main draw are seeded finalists Reyes, Francisco "Django" Bustamante, Marlon "Marvelous" Manalo and US-based Jose "Amang" Parica and qualifiers Alex "The Lion" Pagulayan, Alcano, Valle, Warren "Warrior" Kiamco, Rodolfo "Boy Samson" Luat, Antonio "Nickoy" Lining and Santos Sambajon.

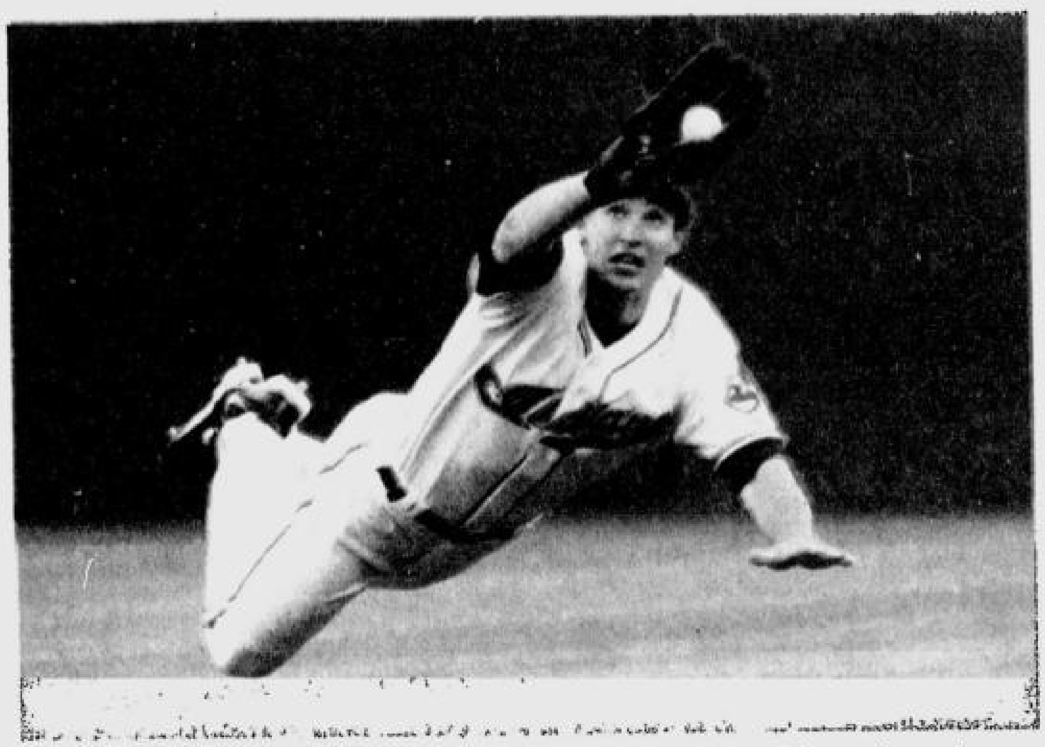
RP pugs join Greenhill tilt

FRESH FROM A TRIUMPHANT STINT IN the Hanoi International boxing tournament, the Philippines is seeing action in the 4th Greenhill Cup slugfest starting yesterday in Karachi, Pakistan.

Olympian Harry Tañamor (light flyweight) banners the country's campaign in the event featuring top Asian and European amateurs.

Also competing are Athens Olympian Violito Payla (flyweight), Asian Championships Best Boxer Joan Tipon (bantamweight), Orlando Tacuyan Jr (featherweight), Genebert Basadre (lightweight) and Delfin Boholst (light-welter). Head coach is Patricio Gaspi with Ronald Chavez as assistant.

"We are sending a strong team to gauge the boys' performance against the best Asian boxers in time for the Doha Asian Games," said Manny Lopez, president of the Amateur Boxing Association. The trip is sponsored by Pacific Heights and supported by the Philippine Sports Commission.



GOTCHA: Cleveland Indians center fielder Grady Sizemore makes a diving catch to rob Baltimore Orioles' Luis Terrero of a hit in the third inning Friday in Cleveland. The Indians won, 9-0, as Travis Hafner became the first player in major league history to hit five grand slams before the All-Star break. AP

Highlands Ladies Cup gets swell of sponsors

THE FIRST HIGHLANDS LADIES Cup fund-raising tournament will be held on July 15 at the Tagaytay Midlands Golf Course with the Sisters of Mary Boys and Girls Town in Silang, Cavite, as prime beneficiary. Tee-off will be shotgun style at 8:30 a.m.

The event, open to all men and women, members and non-members, will feature four categories – Classes A, B and C for men and ladies division - under the Stableford format of play.

Major sponsors are HSBC, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum and San Miguel Corp.

The other sponsors are INQUIRER Golf, Antonio's Restaurant, Rosalie Heo, Celerity Healthy Quencher, Metrobaker (Dunkin Donuts), Welch, PBCom, Guess Jeans, Fly Ace Corp. Wines, Sunbolt sports drink, Chocolate Kiss, Bizu, Makati Golf Club, Boysen Paints and Burlington Socks. More sponsors are expected to support the launching project of the Tagaytay ladies.

The hole-in-one prizes on designated holes include a Grandis from Mitsubishi Motors Phils. Inc., cart from Club Car, a four-night Mexican cruise from Baron Travel, tickets for two to Los Angeles and Vietnam from Philippine Airlines and 3 days 2 nights vacation package for two at El Nido in Palawan, including airfare from Regent Travel.

A ticket worth P3,000 is inclusive of green fees, golf cart, lunch, raffle and giveaways. For inquiries, call Dolly or Maybelle at 536-2558 or 522-7189, fax 521-8848 or 09175392904.

Jungolfers enjoy new perks in US

By Jong Arcano

SAN DIEGO—SOME star kids are getting some pampering here.

When Filipino jungolfers started to compete in the early years of the Callaway Junior World championships in the mid-70s, they had to first, scrounge for sponsors of their plane fares and second, look for kind-hearted families who will let them into their homes for a week not to mention car-pooling them to and from the golf courses every day.

In local parlance, it was KKB (*kanya-kanyang bayad*). Not now.

Jungolf stars like Wolen Superal and Dottie Ardina and the other "chosen few" in this year's large Philippine delegation sent here by the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines are enjoying a different lifestyle in this coastal state.

They are officially "quartered" in various floors at Holiday Inn, are being brought to their assigned golf courses by service vans with coaches and guides to look after them.

They are given food allowances as well as top-of-the-line equipment. If they get lucky, they may end up with a little shopping money for a good game.

The man responsible for all those perks is business tycoon Ricky Razon of ICTSI fame, who is throwing away millions to fund a training pool that also include professional and amateur players in a determined search for the first Filipino to play in the PGA Tour.

While Superal and Ardina, also sponsored by Philippine Airlines, are already division champions in the annual Junior World, they will be moving to higher divisions with their stock boosted by a series of tuneup events around Asia. If her rivals toughened up by competing against kids in their age-group, Ardina played against older, taller ladies in Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore in recent months.

This, indeed, could be an RP delegation to watch.

Debbie de Villa is already the reigning Philippine Ladies Open champion at 15 and just two days ago, she qualified for the 106th US Women's Amateur by making the Top 10 of a qualifier played at the Friendly Hills Country Club in Whittier, California.

Andie Unson and Abby Arevalo are coming off victories in various parts of the United States. Unson won twice in San Diego while Arevalo topped her division in the Pepsi Little People in Illinois. Miguel Tabuena and AR Ramos also did well in their buildup for the San Diego mission.

"We have a lot of potential champions in our delegation," said Jungolf president and delegation head Bang Mamaril. "But the Junior World is the Junior World and we're up against the world's best so we can only hope for the best."

The Jungolf organization has mobilized its parent-officials to monitor the performance of the kids in the event which starts Tuesday, July 11. There are six venues in the Junior World tournament scattered all over San Diego and each age-group category has its own coordinator who will make sure that their needs are being attended to.

The RP delegation: Class A (15-17 years): Miko Yee, Jikjik Abdon, Tonton Asistio, Miko Alejandro, Carlos Fabregas, Gino Bunyi, Debbie de Villa, Crystal Superal, Bambee dela Paz Class B (13-14 years): Wolen Superal, Marcel Puyat, Carlos Tinio, Juan Miguel Arevalo, Luis Rafaelle Sumabat, Cyna Rodriguez, Mia Piccio, Paulina Sotto, Kristine Leonen Class C (11-12 years): Miguel Tabuena, LJ Go, Vijay Vasandani, Don Martin Fernandez, Andie Unson, Dottie. Ardina, Marvi Monsalve, Angela De Villa, Class D (9-10 years): Raymund Gonzales, AR Ramos, Miggy Yee, Jully Vasandani, Princess Superal, Daniella Uy, Felicia Medalla Class E (7- 8 years): Justin Dy, Ruperto Zaragosa, Raymart Tolentino, Rachita Vasandani, Mia Legaspi, Abby Arevalo LK Go Class F (6-under): Shailesh Vasandani, Ryan Monsalve, Mikael Robles Chloe Reyes.

Slazenger, Adidas back golfest

SLAZENGER AND TAYLORMADE Adidas have agreed to become major sponsors in the 20th Rotary Golfing Fellowship Foundation of the Philippines Inc. (RGFFP) Southern Leg tournament on Aug. 24-27 in Bacolod City.

Other major sponsors so far are Casino Filipino, GNC, OSIM Phils., Integrated Pipe Specialists and Air Philippines.

RGFFP president Poch Borromeo of RC Makati West and organizing committee members Nonoy Braga (RC-QC), Albert Que (RC-Bagumbayan), Mari Cacho (RC-Makati North) and Pepe Lim (RC-Makati West) have finalized arrangements for the event, which will determine protagonists for the 2006 Rotary golf champion.

For details, contact Pauline Sevilla at 0920-9199000, 724-8174, fax no. 721-5940 or email rgff.inc@gmail.com/rgffp1987@yahoo.com.

Chiu, Ian prevail

IRENE CHIU GIFTED HERSELF with an advance birthday present when she beat Alma Ledesma 21-10, 21-12, for the ladies singles crown while Ian Piencenaves bested Christopher Flores, 21-9, 21-13, to pocket the men's plum in the elite masters of the P1 million JVC Open Badminton Championships at Glorietta yesterday.

Chiu, who will turn 22 on Wednesday, seized control early with her power game and brilliant winners as the RCT Badminton Academy mainstay coasted to victory. Chiu won the top P35,000 purse plus other gift items, among them from the sponsoring JVC (Phils.), Inc.

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COLORFUL KICKOFF: Students lend a touch of glamour to the UAAP opening ceremonies as they perform a dance number before the start of hostilities. *See UAAP story on A24*

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Wie, Sorenstam near match play final showdown

GLADSTONE, NEW JERSEY—MICHELLE Wie and Annika Sorenstam moved another step closer to a final-round showdown in the HSBC Women's World Match Play Championship.

With her mother shouting "Good shot, Michelle!" after each booming drive, the 16-year-old Wie beat friend Christina Kim, 3 and 2, on Friday in the second round. The top-seeded Sorenstam beat Heather Young, also 3 and 2.

Wie advanced to a third-round match against LPGA Championship winner Se Ri Pak, while Sorenstam will play former Duke star Brittany Lang. Pak beat Lorie Kane 1-up and Lang eliminated Seon-Hwa Lee 3 and 2 on the hilly Hamilton Farm course.

"I feel like I'm playing very solidly," Wie said. "Obviously, tomorrow is a whole other day and you never know what might happen when you wake up."

Sorenstam won the first two holes against Young, but dropped Nos. 4-5 and made the turn all square. The Swedish star then won Nos. 10, 12 and 13 and halved the next three holes with pars to end the match.

"It was a good match," Sorenstam said. "I'm quite happy with the way I played."

Sorenstam began the week with a four-shot playoff victory over Pat Hurst on Monday in the US Women's Open in Newport, R.I., then beat Virada Nirapathpongporn 3 and 2 in the first round Thursday.

"I'm on such a high that I'm not even thinking that I should be tired," Sorenstam said. "I'm just looking forward to coming back tomorrow."

Wie won all four par-5s with birdies, finished with seven birdies and had two three-putt bogeys in 16 holes. She's playing her fourth event in five weeks, a welcome change from her usual light tournament schedule.

"I like this a lot better," Wie said. "It's a lot harder to play one tournament, have more than a month off and then play in another. I really look forward to the summer where I have a lot of tournaments, where I can play almost every week."

With about 400 people following Wie and Kim, Wie won the par-5 second with a 10-foot birdie putt and took a 2-up lead with a two-putt par on the par-3 third.

Kim rebounded with a birdie on the par-4 fifth, halved the par-4 sixth with a birdie and pulled even with a 13-foot birdie putt on the par-3 seventh. Kim then birdied the par-4 eighth to take the lead.

"Obviously, we're pretty close and it's tough to put that out of your mind," Wie said. "You just have to think that she's just another opponent and try your hardest."

Wie tied it with a birdie on the par-5 ninth, took the lead with another birdie on the par-5 11th and went 2-up with a birdie on the par-3 12th. Kim got a hole back with a par on the par-4 13th after Wie missed a 3-foot putt, but Wie countered with a birdie on the par-5 14th. *AP*

Federer battles Nadal

Defending champion faces claycourt king on his terms

WIMBLEDON, ENGLAND—Roger Federer has lost only four matches this year.

All in finals. All to Rafael Nadal.

This time, when they meet on the biggest stage in tennis, it will be on Federer's terms.

It's No. 1 vs. No. 2 in another Grand Slam final Sunday when Federer and Nadal play for the Wimbledon title. Nadal beat Federer on clay at the French Open last month, but this one's on grass.

"I know I can beat him," Federer said. "I need to focus on me playing on grass, my style of play, playing aggressive. It's going to be easier on grass to do that than on clay where he can cover much more ground."

Federer, the three-time defending champion, was an overwhelming favorite to get this far. He showed why by routing Jonas Bjorkman, 6-2, 6-0, 6-2 Friday in the most lopsided Wimbledon men's semifinal in history.

But Nadal? The two-time French Open champion has won a record 60 straight clay-court matches but few, including Nadal himself, believed he was ready to make a serious title run on grass.

"Yes, I am surprised," Nadal said after beating Marcos Baghdatis, 6-1, 7-5, 6-3 in the semis Friday. "Maybe I improve a little bit, no?"

No kidding.

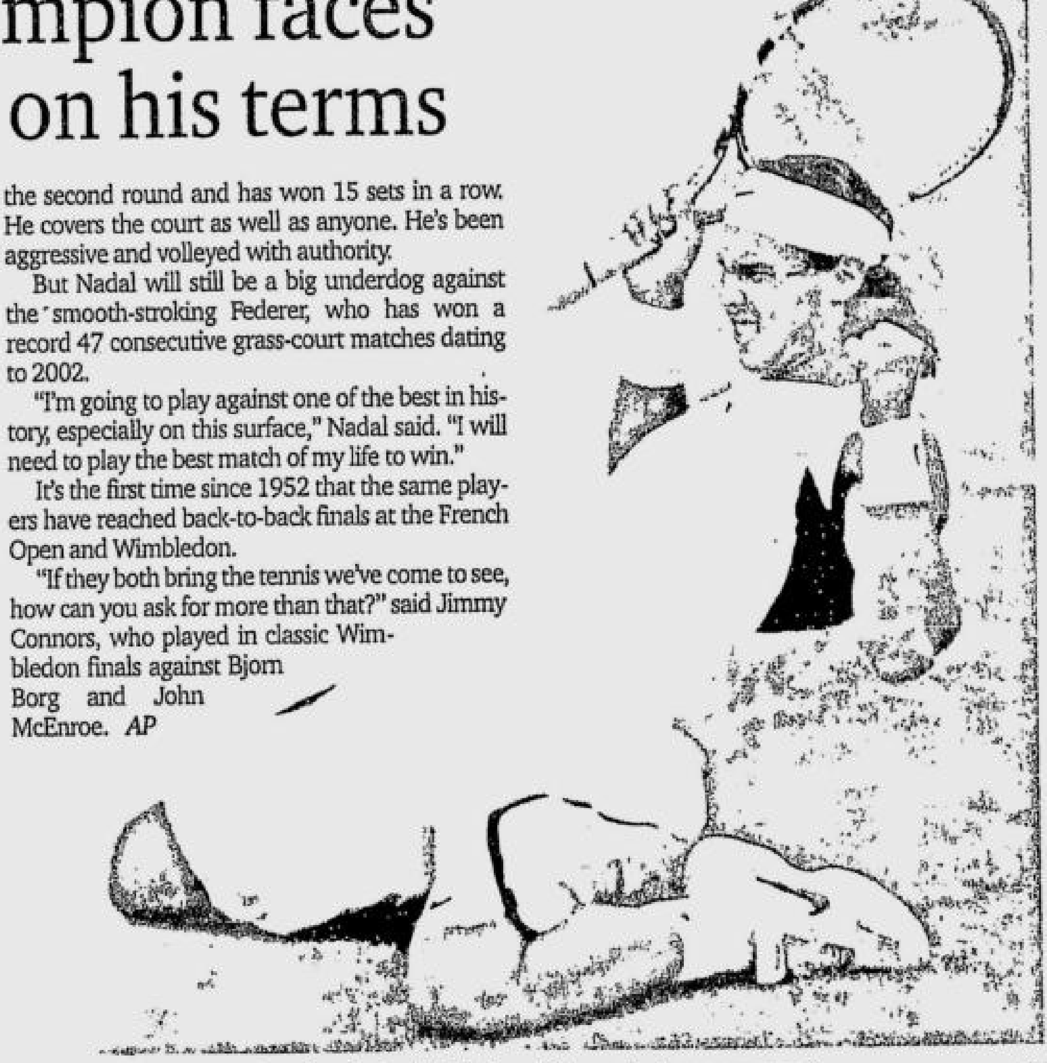
The 20-year-old Spaniard hasn't lost serve since the second round and has won 15 sets in a row. He covers the court as well as anyone. He's been aggressive and volleyed with authority.

But Nadal will still be a big underdog against the smooth-stroking Federer, who has won a record 47 consecutive grass-court matches dating to 2002.

"I'm going to play against one of the best in history, especially on this surface," Nadal said. "I will need to play the best match of my life to win."

It's the first time since 1952 that the same players have reached back-to-back finals at the French Open and Wimbledon.

"If they both bring the tennis we've come to see, how can you ask for more than that?" said Jimmy Connors, who played in classic Wimbledon finals against Bjorn Borg and John McEnroe. *AP*



AND NOW the question: Can Rafael Nadal beat Roger Federer on grass?

AFP

SPORTSWATCH

Pacquiao-Larios text bet winners picked

FOURTEEN LUCKY WINNERS OF THE MANO MILYONARYO PROMO, A TEXT betting game introduced by Text Entertainment Games (E-Games) for the Manny Pacquiao-Oscar Larios bout, have been picked recently. Napoleon Cruz Villacorta, Milleth Puntilar Manalili, Rowena S. Nano, Gloria P. Estrella, Emily Bugante, Rose Joy Sebastian, Armand Ducanes, Angel Ve Masbad, Lierra Fe P. Bustos, Elena A. Formales, Madelene N. Cheng, Robert B. Roldan and Joselyn Ortega were the names drawn last July 2. The grand prize winner of P1 million will be picked from among those 14 names. There will only be one winner of P200,000, two winners of P100,000 and 10 winners will take home P10,000 each.

Magrinio-Cuello bout in Fistorama

FISTORAMA FEATURES THIS AFTERNOON AN EXCITING 8-ROUND BOUT BEtween light flyweights Rey Magrinio and Denver Cuello. It is supported by a 4-round encounter between featherweights Diosdado Perez and Rodrigo Vicera Jr. The fights were held last week at the Salceda Gymnasium in Polangi, Albay. Fistorama is shown worldwide twice weekly through ABS-CBN Global's The Filipino Channel/Pinoy Central TV. The event, presented by PCSO and supported by Tanduay, Hope, Outlast Battery and Mapecon, will be aired at 3:30 p.m. on RPN-9. Golf Power Plus airs at 3 p.m. featuring the elimination match between Far Eastern University Team 1 and St. Francis of Assisi College Team 1 in the PCSO Women's Inter-Collegiate Beach Volleyball Challenge.

SBP season 21 reels off

THE 21ST SEASON OF SMALL BASKEETERS PHILIPPINE UNWRAPS TOday at the Xavier Sports Complex in Greenhills with 36 teams, led by defending NCR and national champions San Beda College-Manila (SBP) and La Salle Greenhills (Passerelle), vying for top honors. PBA rookie Larry Fonacier and veteran Paolo Mendoza will grace the 8 a.m. opening ceremony of the tourney organized by BEST Center and sponsored by Milo. Both Fonacier and Mendoza started their basketball careers with the Small Baskeeters. All teams in the Small Baskeeters and Passerelle divisions are expected to play on Sunday.

Adidas streetball MM elims reset

THE METRO MANILA QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT OF THE 2006 ADIDAS Streetball Challenge has been reset to Aug. 5-6 at the Central Plaza, Market! Market! at The Fort to give more time for the participating schools and teams to prepare. Deadline for submission of entries of the invited teams will be on July 28. The cut-off date for the 18-and-below tournament is June 1, 1988 and all entries will be screened on Aug. 3 and 4 at the Adidas Store in SM Megamall. For inquiries, call 0918-2410144 or 4101392 or e-mail to futuresbasketball@gmail.com.

Makati derby submission of entries

TODAY IS THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES IN MAKATI COLIseum's Salpukan Sa Taglugon 5-cock derby, a six-day event that dangles a guaranteed prize of P2 million plus a brand new Ford Escape. Entries will be accommodated from 2 to 9 p.m. For details, call 8963545 and 8956475. The expected tough battle starts tomorrow, featuring the 2-cock elimination round. Entry fee is P10,000. Other elimination round schedules will be on July 12, 15, 17 and 19. A special prize of P100,000 per day will be divided among participants who scored two points in the elimination rounds. All qualifiers will advance to the 3-cock finals on July 22.

Sprinting days over; real Tour starts

VITRE, FRANCE—MOVE OVER SPRINTERS, time for others to get some glory.

The battle to be Lance Armstrong's successor at the Tour de France begins in earnest Saturday with the first long time trial of this year's already drama-filled race.

With a couple of hills, a long flat section and sharp turns and roundabouts to negotiate, the 52-kilometer (32-mile) course that cuts a loop northwest of the Brittany city of Rennes could create surprises.

Time-trialing "is going to give some people a lot of confidence," said American rider Christian Vandevelde of Team CSC. But a bad ride is "maybe gonna even end some people's Tour de France dreams. So, yes, it's a big day."

After a first week when the top riders kept their powder dry and sprint specialists like Robbie McEwen, winner of Friday's sixth stage, hogged the limelight, the clock race should help unmask the true contenders for the Tour title in a depleted field missing stars due to a doping scandal.

"We haven't seen the leaders yet, aside from the sprinters they have all been playing hide and seek," said Jacques Michaud, a race manager for the Phonak squad of American rider Floyd Landis, among those hoping to win Saturday.

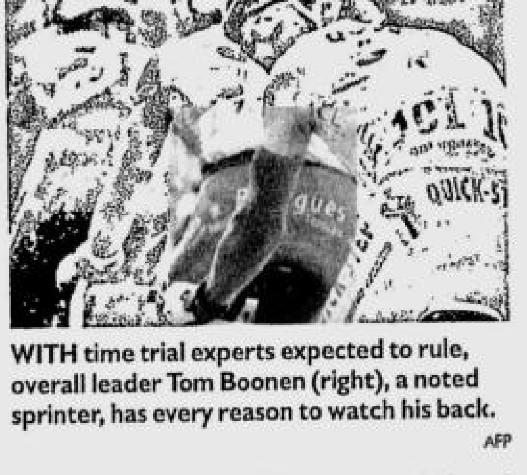
The time trial "will give us a first snapshot of the form of the leaders," he added. The Pyrenees, which come next week, "will provide a second snapshot. Coming out of the Pyrenees, we will already have an idea of the potential podium in Paris."

Riders will set out individually against the clock, with Tom Boonen going last because he holds the Tour lead.

But it could be the Belgian's last day in the race leader's yellow jersey. Boonen, McEwen and other sprinters are not among those expected to shine in the time trial, which favors racers with good endurance to ride quickly and steadily over long distances.

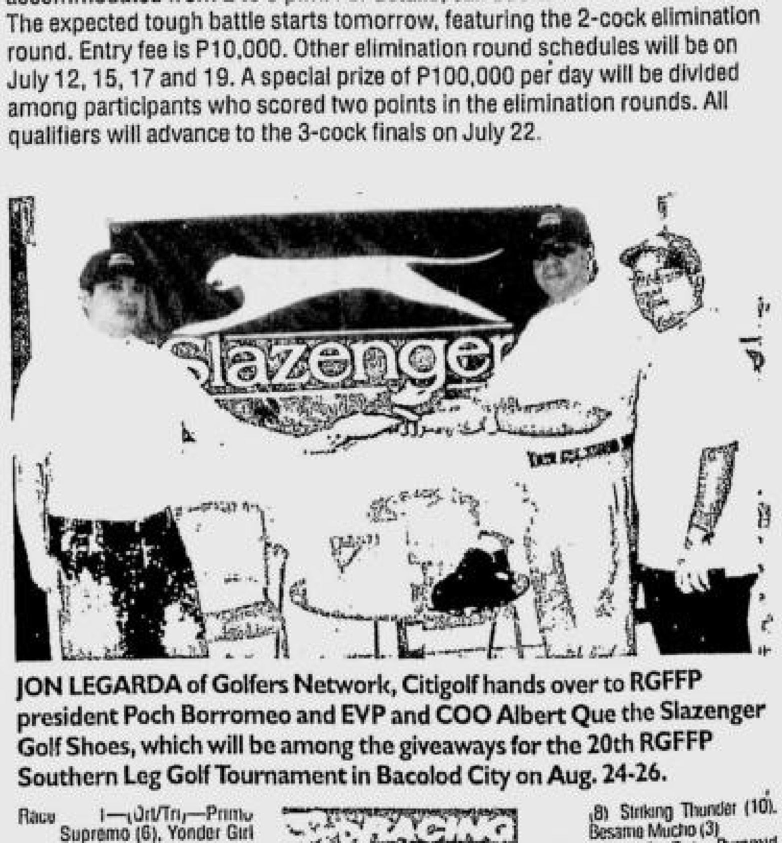
Perhaps not since 1999, when Armstrong first took control of the Tour, has the outcome of a time trial seemed so uncertain. The seven-time Tour champion excelled in the discipline, winning nine of the 14 time trials of 16 kilometers (10 miles) or longer that he competed in.

Of the four people who beat Armstrong in long time trials, only two are racing at this Tour: American David Zabriskie of Team CSC, and Saunier Duval's David Millar, a Briton back from a two-year doping ban. *AP*



WITH time trial experts expected to rule, overall leader Tom Boonen (right), a noted sprinter, has every reason to watch his back.

AFP



JON LEGARDA of Golfers Network, Citigolf hands over to RGFFP president Poch Borromeo and EVP and COO Albert Que the Slazenger Golf Shoes, which will be among the giveaways for the 20th RGFFP Southern Leg Golf Tournament in Bacolod City on Aug. 24-26.

Alban whips rival twice, cops two net titles

SURIGAO—JUKE ALBAN WHIPPED Bobby Chio, 6-3, 6-2, in the boys' 16-under then later watched him retire after taking the first set at 6-1 in the boys' 18-under division to become a double titlist in the recent 2006 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and regional workshop here at the Surigao Tennis Club.

Alban shared the limelight with Jeritt Ronquillo, a 6-0, 6-1 winner over Glaiza Carnezer in the unisex 10-under; Romeo Ongayo, who edged Jasic Ronquillo, 6-1, 6-4, in the boys' 12-under; and Erwin Abad, a 7-5, 6-4 victor past Ronald Macalos in the boys' 14-under age group.

In the distaff side of the Milo netfest organized by the CHildren's Tennis Workshop with support from Prince tennis equipment and Adidas, Reva Calduza routed Lizelle Canizes, 6-0, 6-1, in the girls' 12-under; Robie Santos downed Calduza, 6-4, 6-3, in the girls' 14-under; and Santos redeemed herself in the girls' 16-under with a 6-3, 2-1 retired win past Janelle Cantutay.

After the Surigao leg, the MILO Junior Tennis Cup will be hosted by the Ozamis Tennis Club spearheaded by its president, Engr. Romeo Cabrera.

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Primo Supremo (6), Yonder Girl (4), JJ's Friend (5), Royal Set (2)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Storm Hall (1), Alam Ko Na Yan (7), Royal Academy (6), Time is Mony (5)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Iron Mic (4), House of riches (2), Latin Music (1), Western Dancer (8), Smooth Strike (6)
Race 5—(Tri)—Hear Me (1), Blazing Maldini (4), Hazmagic (2)
Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Ocean Deep (4), Air Force One (9), Karma (6), Ilocos Pride (7), Man Power (3)
Race 7—La Tienne/Ever Mine Now (4), Slatkis (3)
Race 8—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Remus (9), Latina (8), Stradivarius (3) Big Boss (4), Bigtime Bonjing (6)
Race 9—kalwa (2), Monalisa (3)
Race 10—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Feman Ikaw Pa Rin (9), Chabacana (6), Yoshivara (8) Striking Thunder (10), Besamo Mucho (3)
Race 11—(Qrt/Tri)—Pyramid Relaunch/Amazing Firenze (1), Spanish Drums (5), Real Tough (4), Hello Junior (3)
Race 12—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Order of Merit (2), Romario (10), Loving Thunder (9), Long Hitter (4), Hale and Hearty (5)
Race 13—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Money for Rap (3), Sulter s Royal (6) Yokuzuna (7), Mas Monique (9), rivendel (5), Run Like D'Wind/Uncle Buck (4)

WORLD SPORTS

US 5 plays Chinese, Brazilians

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO—The United States has added a pair of games in Guangzhou, China, as part of its training for the world championships later this summer. The Americans will play the Chinese on Aug. 7. The game, announced Friday by USA Basketball, will mark the first time a US team with NBA players will compete against the Chinese in China. The Chinese still hope to have star center Yao Ming, who is recovering from surgery for a broken foot. The Americans will play Brazil the following day. The Brazilian team could include NBA players Leandro Barbosa of Phoenix and Denver forward Nene. USA Basketball previously announced games in South Korea against Lithuania and Korea from Aug. 13-15. "I think it is incumbent on us when we go and play in China, Korea and Japan that we get acclimated to those countries," coach Mike Krzyzewski said in a statement. "So to play a couple of games in China and spend a few days there will not only help us for Japan but it will help us for 2008 and Beijing." The Americans will open exhibition play against Puerto Rico on Aug. 3 following a pair of training sessions in Las Vegas. They also face Puerto Rico on Aug. 19 in Sapporo, Japan, in their first game at the world championships. *AP*

Woods rebounds; Mickelson struggles

LEMONT, ILLINOIS—IF HE WAS ANGRY, Phil Mickelson didn't show it. He praised the course, mentioned the balmy weather and basically let everyone know that life is great, even if his game was anything but on Friday. While Tiger Woods rebounded from a rough opening round at the Western Open and Stewart Cink jumped into contention with one of the best performances ever at the tournament, Mickelson stumbled with a 3-over 74. Then, he shrugged it off. "I didn't find it frustrating," he said. "I enjoyed playing here. We had great weather, great golf course. I just didn't play the way I wanted to, but again, we've got two more rounds." Woods shot a 4-under 67 during the second round Friday, a day after struggling for a 1 over. Still, he was seven shots behind leader Daniel Chopra, who carded a 5-under 66 to hold a two-stroke lead over Vijay Singh at Cog Hill. Chopra, who began the day in a four-way tie for the lead, is at 10 under. Singh shot 67 to stand at 8 under. Mickelson, who went into the second round one stroke back, is now nine behind the leader. But it was Cink who impressed after a 6-under 29 on the front nine tied the tournament's nine-hole record. His 64 for the round was one off the mark for 18 holes. That put him at 7-under 135 and in a tie for third with Trevor Immelman and Joe Ogilvie. "I can't remember playing nine holes any better than that," Cink said. "I don't think I missed a shot, and I didn't miss many putts, either." After shooting 71 in the first round, Cink birdied six of the first nine holes and finished with nine in all. *AP*

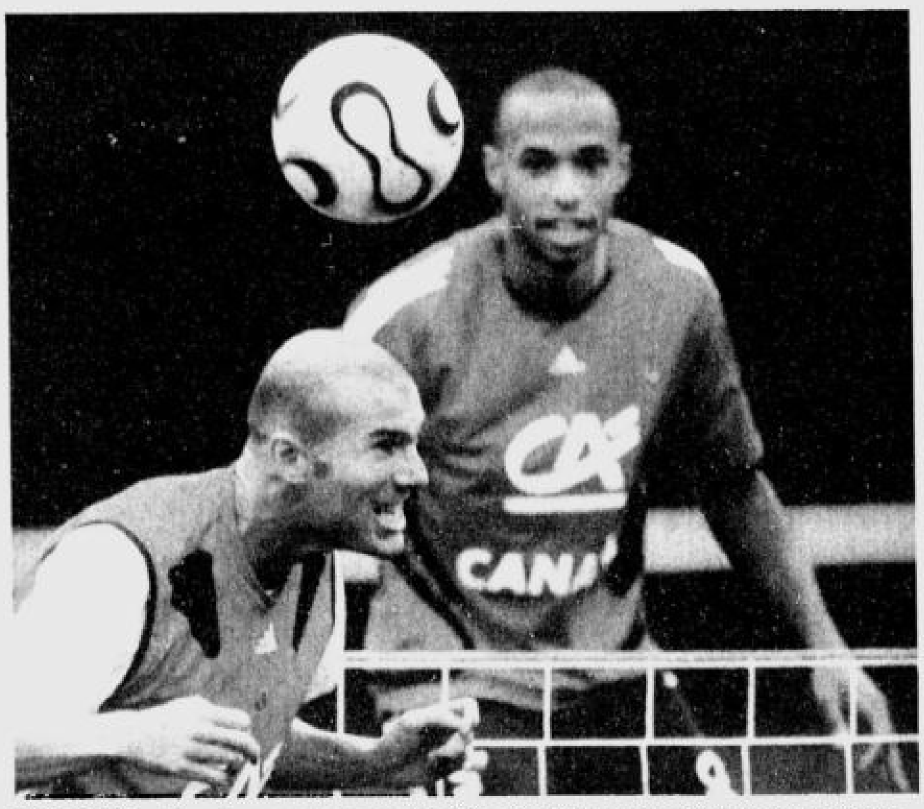
Jones, Powell compete in Paris

PARIS—JAMAICAN WORLD-RECORD holder Asafa Powell and rejuvenated American sprinter Marion Jones will contest the 100-meter events at the Gaz de France track meet on Saturday. Jones has won four races at six meets—including the United States Championships in June—since she returned to athletics after an 11-month absence in which she battled injuries and doping allegations. Her fastest time this season—11.06—is significantly slower than the 10.84 she ran to win at Gaz in 2001. This time at the Stade de France, Jones hopes to run under 11 seconds. Jones, who won five medals—including three golds—at the 2000 Sydney Olympics, is being investigated in connection with the BALCO doping scandal. She has never tested positive for performance-enhancing substances and has repeatedly denied using them. The field includes such rising stars as American world champion Lauryn Williams and Jamaica's Sherone Simpson, whose time of 10.82 is the fastest this year. Top-ranked Christine Arron of France has pulled out. Powell, who shares the 100-meter world record of 9.77 seconds with Justin Gatlin of the United States, looks set to dominate the field in the men's race. Eighth-ranked Ronald Pognon of France is expected to be his main rival. Powell is ranked second, behind Gatlin, who's not competing. Asked if he was worried about Pognon, Powell replied: "When you're out there against seven other guys you have to be worried." *AP*

Italy goalkeeper holds key

Record-seeking Buffon anchors Italian bid for glory

DUISBURG, GERMANY—Goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon's presence is arguably the biggest difference between this Italy team and the one that lost to France at the 1998 World Cup and 2000 European Championship.



FRANCE'S national soccer team captain Zinedine Zidane heads the ball as Thierry Henry watches during their team's training session in Aerzen, northern Germany. AP

Buffon was a reserve on the 1998 team and missed the 2000 tournament due to injury.

"The fact that I haven't been beaten individually by France gives me a certain amount of tranquillity," Buffon said Friday, two days before the World Cup final in Berlin.

"There's certainly less to worry about than in '98," Buffon added. "In '98 we had to play France at their home, and they were all eight years younger and at the peak of their games. We were really afraid of them and we suffered a lot because of that."

At this World Cup, Buffon has allowed only one goal in Italy's six games—an own-goal by Cristian Zaccardo. No other goalkeeper in World Cup history has allowed so few goals so many games before the final.

"We're not going to disappoint, we're going to play our game," Buffon said.

Buffon will set another World Cup record if he keeps France scoreless for the first 65 minutes of the final. That would make it 518 minutes since Zaccardo's goal, beating fellow Italian Walter Zenga's mark of 517 scoreless minutes at the 1990 World Cup.

Zenga's streak ended when Argentina's Claudio Caniggia scored in the 67th minute of the semifinals.

While he's never played against France, Buffon is still familiar with "Les Bleus."

Three members of France's squad—David Trezeguet, Patrick Vieira and Lilian Thuram—are teammates of Buffon's at Juventus. Arsenal striker Thierry Henry's goal against Buffon in the quarterfinals of the Champions League in March led to Juve's elimination.

"Henry is the type of player you never want to meet in attack," Buffon said. "But I think to win a World Cup you have to meet players like him."

Trezeguet's golden goal beat Italy in the Euro 2000 final and he's scored 95 goals for Juventus over the past six seasons. Lately however, Trezeguet has been relegated to France's bench in favor of Henry.

"I'll be happy if he doesn't play, although I realize that if there's a substitution he'll probably come on," Buffon said.

There are another four Juventus players on Italy's team, meaning eight players overall from the squad will be taking part in the final—more than from any other club.

All the Juventus players have an uncertain future with the squad facing likely relegation for its central role in a massive corruption scandal.

Making things even more difficult for the Juventus players is the sight of a former teammate, Gianluca Pessotto, fighting for his life in a Turin hospital after falling out of a window at team headquarters, reportedly holding rosary beads.

Pessotto's condition worsened slightly Friday, doctors said.

Buffon said it was "a small satisfaction" for Juve's embattled management to have so many players in the final. *AP*

FIFA WORLD CUP BATTLE FOR 3RD PLACE
SPORTSPLUS
10 a.m.—Germany vs. Portugal (replay @ 6 p.m.)
RPN-9
10 a.m.—Germany vs. Portugal

World Cup unearths grave of sibling rivalry that led to 'shoe war'

HERZOGENAURACH, GERMANY—Walk through the gates of the town cemetery, turn right, and a dozen paces down the footpath is the gravestone of Rudolf Dassler. Turn around and head for the opposite corner of the graveyard, climb stone steps up several terraces, and there lies Adolf Dassler.

That the two brothers are buried at the far ends of the cemetery is no coincidence.

For more than 50 years, the feud between Adi and Rudi has played out not just in this small northern Bavarian town, but on playgrounds, shoe stores, and ad campaigns around the world through the shoe companies they founded: Adidas and Puma.

While the manufacturing plants in town have long-since closed, both Adidas and Puma are still headquartered here. Naturally, they are separated by the Au Rach river that runs through town.

"The town is really famous because of them," said Helga Schlemmer, 66, a lifelong resident.

Extra attention

The World Cup being in Germany has focused extra attention on the two companies as well as the 23,000-population town.

Adidas won Fifa's sponsorship rights. The balls being used are Adidas and it has produced striking ads. Puma has also benefited, thanks to the sponsorship of 12 teams, more than Adidas (six) or Nike (eight).

Puma and adidas hope the exposure of the World Cup will help them gain ground on Nike in the soccer apparel industry.

The German shoe companies, which combined to sell more than $10 billion in merchandise in 2005, arose from humble beginnings.

The Dassler brothers helped earn money as boys by delivering clothes for their mother's laundry business. In 1924, they converted their mother's washroom to a shoe factory and focused their new venture solely on sports shoes.

They began with track and soccer shoes, and in 1936, they received a boost when American Jesse Owens ran and jumped his way to four gold medals with spikes manufactured by the Dassler brothers.

After World War II ended, the brothers had a falling out that—depending on whom you believe—was over a) an affair, b) dipping into the till and, c) getting credit for creating the first screw-in soccer studs.

Feud begins

In any event, when Rudi returned from a stint in an American prisoner of war camp in 1948, he left the Dassler Brothers Shoe Factory and founded Puma. Shortly thereafter, Adidas—short for Adi Dassler—was created and the feud was on.

Soon the town was split into two camps. If you worked at Adidas, you didn't socialize, date or marry anyone from Puma. Herzogenaurach has been described as "the town of bent necks" because locals wouldn't talk with anyone until they looked to see what shoes they were wearing.

The brothers' feud wasn't limited to splitting the town. They frequently sued each other, often over such picayune things as Adidas' advertising claim that it sold "the best sports shoes in the world."

If Adi scored a coup helping Germany win its first World Cup in 1954, then Rudi had his turn when Pele, just as a World Cup final was about to kickoff, bent down to tie his shoes. The TV cameras followed, showing the world his Pumas.

Horst Linke, a photographer who grew up in Herzongenaurach, remembers his first holiday job as a teenager at the Adidas plant, where his mother worked. He showed up for his first day wearing brand-less shoes.

"Adi looked out a window and said in his best Franconian manner," Linke said, referring to the region's people, who are known for their gruffness. "What kind of shoes are those? Somebody get that boy some shoes."

In the 1960s, few Germans could afford more than one pair of sports shoes. Thus, it was one or the other.

"Almost everybody had one pair, and you wore it until it fell off," said Gundi Mueller, a docent at an exhibit that documents the shoe companies' histories.

Us-or-them

The us-or-them attitude has softened for a variety of reasons. The brothers have been dead for more than 25 years, more people can afford to wear both and the two companies, which nearly went bankrupt in the early 1990s, are now run by business people, who are busy fighting the bottom line.

"They are still fighting, but it's not the families," said reporter Edith Kern-Miereisz. "The family leaves it to the speakers at the plant to fight."

In fact, the two have even worked together to crack down on bootlegged gear made in China, she said. That sort of cooperation, which may leave Rudi and Adi turning in their graves, would never have happened in the past.

Now, as uncomfortable as it might be, Puma and Adidas understand how it feels when the shoe is on the other foot. *NYTimes News Service*

Azzurris get monks' blessings for finals

RUMTEK, INDIA—WHEN ITALY TAKES THE FIELD in Sunday's World Cup final, it will have some unusual support—some 300 monks at one of Tibetan Buddhism's holiest monasteries will be praying and cheering for the Azzurri.

It's Italy's fair play during the tournament that has impressed the holy men at the Rumtek monastery, high in the Himalayan mountains, monks said.

"I am praying for Italy's victory like many of my colleagues here. The team has reached the finals after a long gap and (are) playing in a fair manner," said Tenzing Dorji, a 27 year-old monk.

BUFFON AP

Italy boasts a defense anchored on goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon.

However, Dorji does concede that there may be one or two secret France fans there.

Most of the younger monks are keen soccer fans, said Karma Gyaltsen, a senior monk.

"I'm sure they are going to break the stillness around here a bit with their shouts Sunday night," he said.

But that's OK, Gyaltsen is an Italy supporter too.

While he also admires their style of play, his devotion to the Azzurri, goes deeper.

He's a big fan of Italian soccer legend Roberto Baggio. "I like him. He is a Buddhist after all."

Baggio, who played in three World Cup's for Italy, converted to Buddhism in the 1980's.

The monks at Rumtek, one of the holiest Tibetan Buddhism sites outside Tibet, will gather in a hall, braving the near freezing weather and staying up till the early hours of the morning to watch the game. *AP*

P92-MILLION EXPENSE

Football groups ready estafa charges vs PFF

By Musong R. Castillo

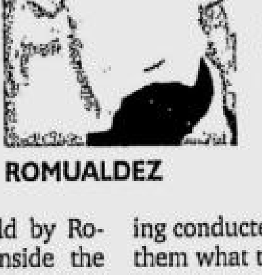
WHILE FOOTBALL IN THE WORLD IS enjoying massive attention because of the on-going World Cup in Germany, the sport in the country is making noise for the wrong reasons.

The war among factions in the sport got even deeper on Friday, when the Philippine Football Federation (PFF) yet again refused to have its records audited as per the request of the National Capital Region and Laguna football associations (FAs).

This marks the second time in three weeks that the PFF has refused to allow its books to be scrutinized amid questions as to how it spent over P90 million in foreign aid the past three years.

The PFF refusal prompted the leadership of the NCR, Laguna and other FAs to seek intervention from the courts with an estafa case against the PFF headed by president Johnny Romualdez now being mulled.

"We will do everything available for us to do, and that includes even taking this to the court of law," said NCR-FA president Jose Vito Borromeo. "We have strong evidence to support our case."



ROMUALDEZ

Bonifacio Santiago and Robbie Santos, accountants of the NCRFA who were accompanied by Mon Jose, an official of the group, were told by Romualdez at the PFF office inside the PhilSports Complex in Pasig that they would have to wait to see the books pending the completion of an internal audit.

A similar team was also dispatched by the NCRFA three weeks ago and it arrived at the PFF office only to be informed that a "holiday" was declared for that day.

"It is now very clear that Mr. Romualdez is hiding something (in the financial statements)," Borromeo added. "And this is enough reason for us to pursue our case."

Romualdez, in a telephone interview with the INQUIRER, said that "it (audit) is their right and we will give it to them, but not on their own conditions.

"We are having a more neutral, less hostile audit being conducted and after that, we will give them what they want in accordance with our suggested procedure and [in] our time," added Romualdez, who also maintained the the NCR and the Laguna FAs don't have legal identities after their SEC registrations were revoked.

"The PFF has spent some P92 million the past three years," Laguna FA president Jun Pacificador, who was also with the team that went to the PFF office, told the INQUIRER. "But do we see development in football (in the country)?

"Spending that much and still remain 42nd among 45 Asian countries is not justifiable spending."

Borromeo and Pacificador said a number of FAs are also starting to wonder how the financial aid given by the world governing Fifa and the Asian Football Confederation is being spent.

Pacificador, for his part, said that only P20,000 was given by the PFF as aid to Laguna last year when something like P14 million a year comes to the PFF from Fifa alone.

"We just want to know how the money for the sport is being spent," Pacificador added.

According to Jose, Article 5, Section 74 of the SEC corporate book gives members the right to inspect financial records of a corporation.

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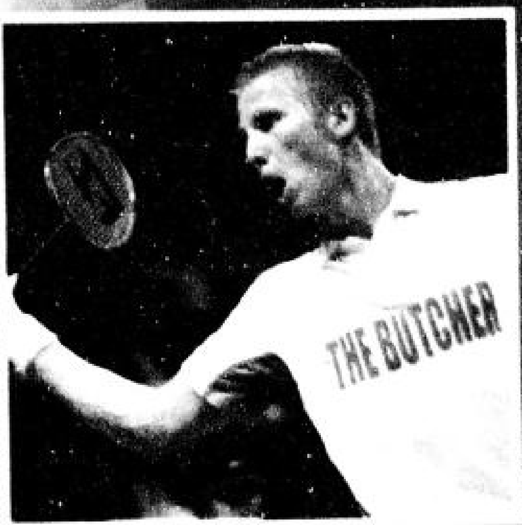
CHOONG TAN FOOK

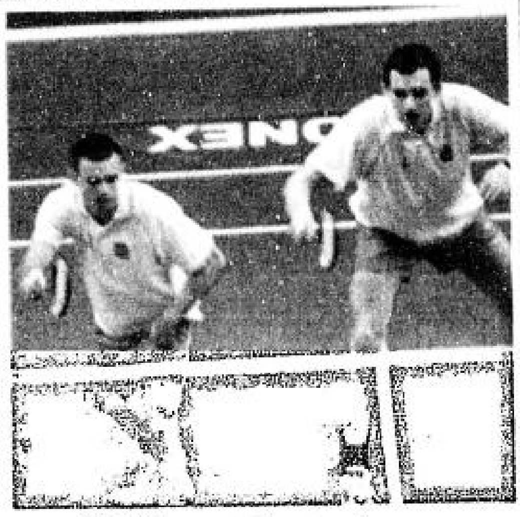
KAMILLA RYTTER-JUHL
THOMAS LAYBOURN

WANG CHEN



NIELS CHRISTIAN KALDAU

KENNETH JONASSEN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Annabelle pulls Richard out of GMA 7 special

By Nini Valera

RICHARD GUITERREZ, currently one of the biggest stars of GMA 7, is not expected at the live musical special that the network has mounted to celebrate its 56th anniversary today.

INQUIRER Entertainment learned on Friday that the actor was pulled out of the special a week ago by his mother and manager Anabelle Rama, who cited a "conflict in schedule."

The special, dubbed "Fantastic 56: The GMA Anniversary Special," is set at 7 p.m., at the World Trade Center.

Wilma Galvante, GMA 7 senior vice president for TV Entertainment, confirmed that Richard would not be participating. So did Rama, who claimed she had found out about the show only last Monday and could not cancel a photo shoot.

What is not being said on record shows more than just a conflict in schedule.

Disagreement

Earlier reports said that Rama had come to a disagreement with GMA 7 over the network's coverage of her family's—including daughter Ruffa's—tax problems. She was supposed to have gone to the office of GMA 7 Chair, President and Chief Executive Officer Felipe L. Gozon about three weeks ago and asked him to stop the coverage.

Gozon reportedly explained to Rama that the story was legitimate news and could not be quashed. Rama is said to have proceeded to the office of Marissa Flores, GMA 7 senior vice president for News. Failing to catch Flores, Rama allegedly stormed out, fuming and in tears.

FROM left, Rama is sore, Gozon is cool, Galvante says Richard will miss all the fun.

During a luncheon with entertainment editors on Monday, Gozon confirmed the incident. But he said he couldn't blame Rama for trying. "Even a mother hen would face a tiger to protect her young."

Later that day, Rama reportedly called a production staffer of "Captain Barbell," Richard's series on Channel 7, to say she was pulling her son out of the special.

"The reason she gave [was] a photo shoot," Galvante said. "I did not argue with that. But to say that they were informed about the program only last Monday is not true. As early as May, all our stars had known [about it]."

On Friday, Rama insisted, "I learned about it only last Monday." When INQUIRER asked what shoot that was, her reply was, "*Basta, may* photo shoot."

But she admitted that she had been hurt by GMA 7's continued coverage of the tax cases. "On the day the news broke," Rama said, "GMA 7 feasted on it ... even in their radio shows. I did not complain because it was news. They did more follow up stories until the third day. On the fourth day, I felt it was too much. That's when I went to Atty. Gozon's office. I told him it to stop the coverage since it was hurting my sons. The issue was old anyway, and the case is already with my lawyers. The Department of Justice has filed a case against us."

Rama maintained that her sons, Richard and Raymond, should have been protected by the station since they were exclusive contract talents. "It doesn't look good when the network hurts its own stars," she said. "But I am not the type to stop the news. I want your readers to know that."

Professionals

She added: "My sons and my husband (Eddie Gutierrez) are professionals. They're always on time on the set ... never absent. They don't bring problems to GMA 7; what they bring to the station is money."

Rama refused to comment when asked if pulling Richard out of the special was her way of getting back. "If a person makes plans," she said, "that person would not reveal such plans before they happen."

She also admitted that she had stormed into Flores' office and that she shouted and cursed. "I said, 'you want news? Here's news. That's why I'm here. You're too cowardly to face me.'"

BUT Richard will host earlier show.

But during the lunch on Monday, Flores simply said, "*Hindi kami nagkausap* (We didn't get to speak)."

Tomorrow, Richard will still perform his hosting chores in "Gigsters," which comes after the noontime show "SOP." Both shows are part of the anniversary special, and will air live from World Trade Center.

Galvante said they were not disappointed about Richard's not joining the special show. "He's just one of [our] many major stars, and most of them will participate," she said. "It's like we're holding a party and one of those who we invited turned down the invitation. But the party goes on. Richard will miss out on the fun, especially since he has done some of the network's best shows."

All-day anniversary treat today

"FANTASTIC 56: THE GMA ANniversary Special" at the World Trade Center today is a day-long fan fare with photo ops and autograph signing with Kapuso stars.

The noontime show "SOP" airs live with the culmination of its "Pasiklaband: The Grand Battle of Pinoy Bands," featuring 14 groups vying for seven awards—Best Pop Rock Band, Best Rock Band, Best Revival, Song of the Year, Favorite Vocalist, Breakthrough Band, and Band of the Year

Also airing live from World Trade Center is "8-ternity," the "S Files" 8th anniversary special. Eight stories will be featured. Eight winners from the live audience plus eight viewers will win prizes from the show.

At sundown, a three-hour musical special featuring Kapuso talents and highlighting GMA's topraters and programming milestones will be taped live, for a delayed telecast.

Free, but ...

Admission to the event is free, but network executives reiterate that the No Ticket-No Entry and First Come-First Served policies will be strictly observed. Tickets were given away earlier at the station.

Almost half a million pesos in cash prizes are in store. Seven texters will each win P56,000 and another one will bag P100,000. To join this promo, texters need to earn raffle entries by downloading a logo of a GMA show by texting 56 KAPUSO to 2364 for Globe, TM and Sun subscribers or 4627 for Smart and Talk 'N Text users. Logo downloads cost P5 each. Winners will be announced during the telecast of the "Fantastic 56" musical special.

Censoring 'public affairs'

Movie-TV board says suspension of 'I-Witness' mandated by a 2005 Supreme Court decision

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

THE MOVIE AND TELEVISION REVIEW AND Classification Board was in the thick of a controversy last week on account of its suspension of the public affairs program "I-Witness."

The documentary show, aired on GMA 7, was suspended for two episodes because of "phalluses and acts of masturbation" in host Howie Severino's report, "Lukayo: Hindi Ito Bastos," aired on May 22.

On July 3, the network filed a motion for reconsideration with the MTRCB. In a Resolution dated July 4, the MTRCB lifted the suspension after the network had complied with one episode.

MARISSA Laguardia

LOREN Legarda

Nessa Valdellon, vice president of GMA Public Affairs, told INQUIRER Entertainment in a phone interview that since the board immediately granted the petition, the station didn't need to elevate it to a higher government agency.

According to lawyer Felicitas Alejandro, legal officer of the MTRCB, "If a petition is rejected, a network or producer can appeal its case at the Office of the President. If it is again rejected at that level, the petitioner can then bring it to the Court of Appeals or the Supreme Court."

Valdellon recounted, "Public affairs shows were not reviewed by the MTRCB ... until a year ago when the Supreme Court decided on the case of (a 1991 episode of ABS-CBN's current affairs program) 'The Inside Story'."

This was confirmed by MTRCB chair Ma. Consoliza "Marissa" Laguardia. "That happened under [former board chair] Etta Mendez, long before my time," she said. Laguardia was appointed board chair in 2003.

The MTRCB provided INQUIRER with documents pertaining to the 2005 decision.

In October 1991, "The Inside Story" aired the episode "Prosti-tuition." The program, hosted by Loren Legarda, tackled "female students moonlighting as prostitutes ... and [named] the Philippine Women's University as the school of some of the students involved."

The show, according to the high court decision, "caused an uproar" and became the subject of complaints and court cases that eventually resulted in the said decision promulgated on January 17, 2005.

Petitioners (ABS-CBN and Legarda) had countered that " 'The Inside Story' is a public affairs program, news documentary and socio-political editorial, the airing of which is protected by the constitutional provision on freedom of expression and of the press."

The SC ruled, however, that PD 1986 (the law governing the MTRCB) gives the board "the power to screen, review and examine all television programs, emphasizing the phrase 'all television programs' ... the only exceptions [being those] imprinted or exhibited by the Philippine government and/or its departments and agencies, and newsreels."

Ella Marie C. Evangelista, "I-Witness" executive producer, pointed out that, "as in all our documentaries, 'Lukayo' was [meant] to educate viewers on the complexities of Filipino culture."

Laguardia summed up her postion, thus: "I understand the network's moves; it has the right to appeal its case ... but it is the board's job to look after the viewers' interests."

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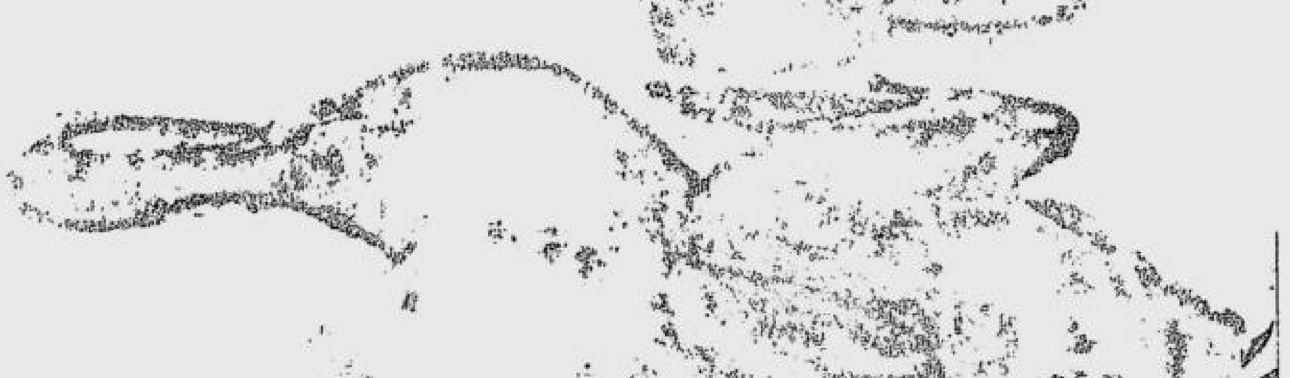

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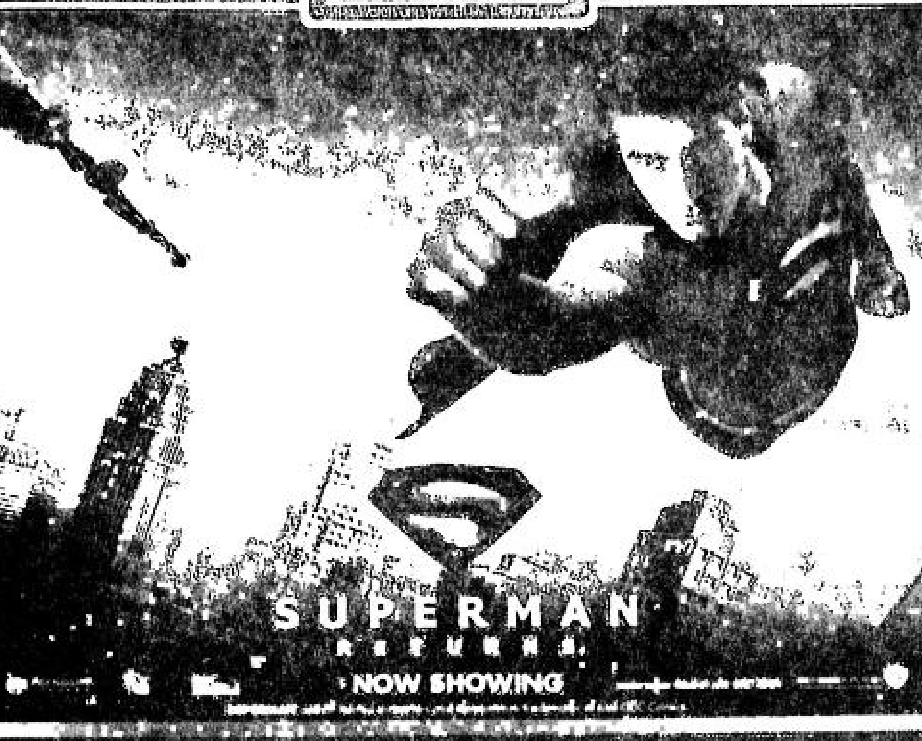

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9:00 12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00 12:00MN
PREMIERE CINEMA
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DIRECTOR'S CLUB
SUPERMAN RETURNS
CENTERSTAGE
RESERVED
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 LOVEWRECKED
3 UNITED 93
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
5 LAKE HOUSE
6 SCARY MOVIE 4

THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
SUPERMAN RETURNS
CINEMA 2
LOVEWRECKED

SM NORTH EDSA
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 UNITED 93
3 LOVEWRECKED
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
5 THE NUN
6 FAST AND FURIOUS 3
7 SUPERMAN RETURNS
8 SUPERMAN RETURNS

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 THE NUN
3 FAST AND FURIOUS 3
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

SM MEGACINEMA
SUPERMAN RETURNS
SCARY MOVIE 4
LOVEWRECKED
SUPERMAN RETURNS
UNITED 93
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
LAKE HOUSE
THE NUN
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
SUPERMAN RETURNS
PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
XMEN III

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
SUPERMAN RETURNS
LOVEWRECKED
SUPERMAN RETURNS
SUPERMAN RETURNS
UNITED 93
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
THE NUN
SCARY MOVIE 4
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
SCARY MOVIE 4
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UNITED 93
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
SUPERMAN RETURNS
LOVEWRECKED
SUPERMAN RETURNS
LAKE HOUSE
THE NUN
RESERVED

SM CITY DASMARINAS
SUPERMAN RETURNS
AMERICAN HAUNTING
LAKE HOUSE
SUPERMAN RETURNS

SM CITY STA. MESA
SUPERMAN RETURNS
LOVEWRECKED
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LAKE HOUSE
THE OMEN

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LAKE HOUSE
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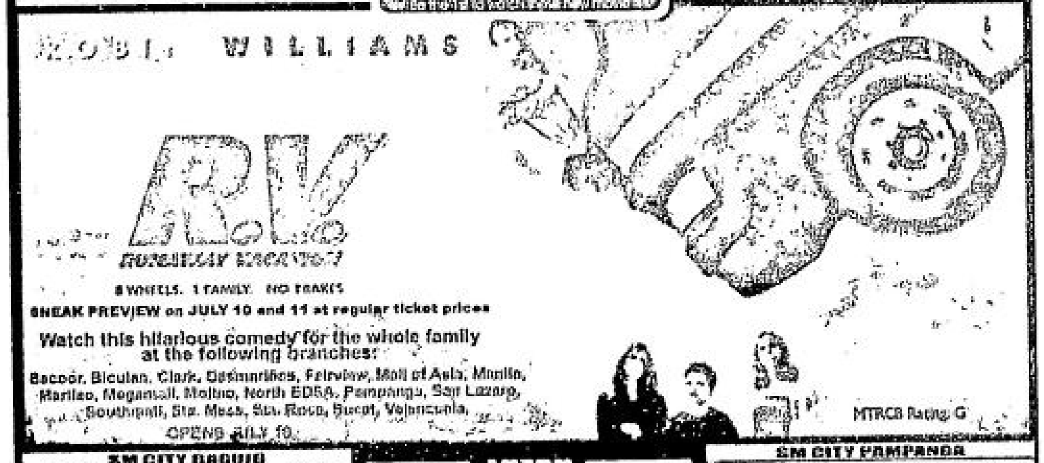

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THE OMEN
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SUPERMAN RETURNS

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SUPERMAN RETURNS
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VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

NOW THAT ABS-CBN HAS launched its own celebrity dance tilt, "U Can Dance" on Sunday, we can compare it to ABC-5's long-running "Shall We Dance?"

Right off the bat, we can see that the Channel 2 show is virtually more dynamic, has a more youthful look, and relaxes the traditional ballroom dancing regimen with some hip-hop and other contemporary touches.

On the other hand, the Channel 5 program features bigger celebrities, hews to a higher dance standard, and is generally more impressive in its results.

On point of hosting, "Shall We Dance's" **Lucy Torres-Gomez** may not be a great dancer, but she comes across better than "U Can Dance's" **Iya Villaniya.** As for the two shows' male hosts, both **Dominic Ochoa** and **Derek Ramsey** are less than dynamic.

Focusing on the shows' two sets of judges, "Shall We Dance's" jurors generally come across as more authoritative than their counterparts on "U Can Dance."

LUCY Torres-Gomez

All told, therefore, "Shall We Dance" is presently more viewable than Channel 2's new dance program. For "U Can Dance" to catch up and win its own terpsichorean brownie points, it should aim for a higher and more rigorous standard in terms of contestants' performances and jurors' decisions, and better hosting.

On the other hand, "Shall We Dance" should by no means rest on its laurels, and needs to work hard to enliven its proceedings, which can look stodgy at times.

Even its jurors' decisions occasionally come off as whimsical or "friend-friendly."

And some mediocre performances have gotten high marks, making viewers wonder what astronomical grade they would give to truly superlative dance routines.

Finally, we should appreciatively point that the current revival of dance programs on local TV deserves encouragement, because dancing is a major talent of Filipinos.

At the moment, both homegrown dance programs on the tube are celebrity-oriented. That's fine for now, but we hope that, in time, other dance tilts will be launched that will discover new talents in the field of terpsichore.

As the US show "Dance Fever" proves, non-stars can be even more exciting dancers than celebrities, so they should be given a chance to strut their stuff on TV.

And, as dance shows become more popular again on TV, greater effort should be expended in finding and developing program hosts who are really terrific dancers, like **Dayanara Torres** was when she hosted a dance program on ABS-CBN.

Perhaps **Regine Tolentino** or **Edna Ledesma** can be given shows of their own? Or Fil-Am dancers who've done well in competitions on US television can be flown in to do the hosting honors.

Season of awakening

Tanghalang Ateneo's 28th year leads off with plays that pit two kinds of truth, the official and the unofficial, against each other, leading to the discovery of new truths and the beginning of change in a season of awakening.

This month, the season opener, Dario Fo's "Ang Aksidenteng Kamatayan ng Isang Anarkista," assumes comic propor-

Beetle battle game

KID FIT

CHILDREN AGES 6-12 TROOPED TO THE MALL OF Asia Music Hall yesterday for the 2006 Mushiking Grand Tournament.

Mushiking or "The King of Beetles" is a beetle battle game that started in Japan in 2003 and is the latest craze in Singapore, Malaysia, Taiwan, Korea and the Philippines.

The interactive card game is available at Powerstation outlets or arcades.

Dinosaurs rule

"Dinotopia: The Miniseries" premieres tomorrow at 8 p.m. on the Ha mark Channel. It features five episodes of a secret world where dinosau and humans coexist in harmony.

Produced by Robert Halmi, Sr. (Merlin) and Robert Halmi, Jr. (Cleopat and based on the best-selling books by James Gurney, the series combines ventive storytelling, thrilling visuals and a daring mix of reality and fantas

Three Dinotopia movies also airs this month at 9 p.m. In "Dinotopia: T Outsider," on July 16, failing sun stones and a rampaging T-Rex force citize of Waterfall City to flee paradise for the tenuous safety of Earthfarm a abandon their home to the Outsiders.

Frank Scott's idea of progress in "Dinotopia: The Election," which p mieres July 23, turns the peaceful city into a congested metropolis. Could tinction be far behind?

In "Dinotopia: New Horizons," airing July 30, a stegosaurus is felled b poisoned arrow of a hunter motivated by the elixir of youth extracted fr the blood of the dinosaur. What could a paradise like Dinotopia be missin

ance shows compared

tions as it investigates the baffling death of a railway worker.

Awakening takes a disturbing turn in Han Ong's "Middle Finger," or "Hinlalato" in Filipino.

The play centers on four college buddies as they search for sense in a world dominated by parents, teachers, counselors and other adults.

The third play, "The Glass Menagerie," opens in January 2007, and casts **Laurice Guillen** as **Amanda Wingfield**, and her daughter **Ina Feleo** as Amanda's daughter, **Laura.** Call 416-5386 or 0919-4716914.

Pauleen Luna JC de Vera and Boots Anson-Roa
Jason Abalos Iwa Moto Gian Carlos Franzen Fajardo Ketchup Eusebio Glaiza de Castro Katarina Perez

Angelica Panganiban
as
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THE LAKE HOUSE 2:10 / 4:40 / 7:10 / 9:40			SUPERMAN RETURNS 12:00 / 3:00 / 6:00 / 9:00

Ali MALL 5

1	SUPERMAN RETURNS 12:15 / 3:10 / 6:05 / 9:00	2	SUPERMAN RETURNS 12:00 R2 / 2:35 / 5:30 / 8:25	3	UNITED 93 12:45 / 3:25 / 6:05 / 8:45
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McDonald's gets Kids on the Go

This year, thousands of Filipino children happily spent their vacation at their favorite place, McDonald's. Under the Golden Arches, they participated in a flurry of fun activities promoting healthy, active and balanced lifestyles.

25
na tayo!
Wo shop

Ronald and Grimace entertain the scores of Kiddie Crew graduates

Fun at Work

One of McDonald's most popular summer activities is the Kiddie Crew Workshop. It was a staggering success with more than 6,500 Kiddie Crew graduates simultaneously honored in Manila, Cavite, Cebu and Davao for their enthusiastic participation.

Chief Happiness Officer Ronald McDonald kept everybody in high spirits as he entertained the young graduates with songs and dances. He also guided them in taking their Kiddie Crew Oath wherein they pledged to be happy, respectful and obedient children.

These Kiddie Crew graduates age 6 to 12 had an amazing vacation at McDonald's. They got to cook McDonald's food, make tons of new friends and work inside the store, learning first hand why McDonald's is the number 1 quick service restaurant chain in the world.

Started in 2004, the McDonald's Kiddie Crew Workshop keeps children happily busy with different kid-friendly programs designed to develop their personalities, improve their social skills and help them become more aware of their surroundings. They also learn values like cleanliness, courtesy, patience and friendliness from their experience working and having fun at McDonald's.

One of Magis Youth's summer activities is the coastal cleanup

Summer Splash

McDonald's also had cool summer activities in store for teens and the rest of the family.

There was the McDonald's summer job program where smart, young go-getters like 18 year-old Pamela Sy and 15 year-old Paolo Torrevillas worked as part-time service crew members.

McDonald's actively participated in Magis Youth Beach Adventure 2006, where teens learned about diving, snorkeling and caring for the marine environment. Their fun in the sun was capped with a coastal cleanup drive.

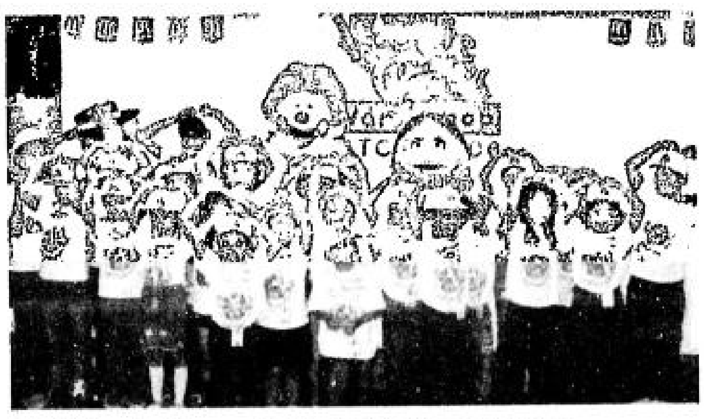
At the Kids Adventure Series, McDonald's together with the Mommy Academy Club headed for the Bert Lozada Swim School to teach kids and their parents the basics of swimming.

These are just some of the many amazing activities McDonald's lined up this year. Expect more to come as McDonald's continues to get kids happy, healthy and on the go.

Thousands flocked to the AFP Theater for the Kiddie Crew commencement

Kiddie Crew smiles come in vibrant colors

Kiddie Crew members pledge to be true to the Kiddie Crew Oath



Birdie joins Cebu's own batch of Kiddie Crew graduates

Moms and kids beat the heat at the McDonald's mobile van.

It's a family affair at the Kiddie Crew Graduation

Excited parents join in the Kiddie Crew celebration

Pamela Sy

Paolo Torrevillas

Kids under the Mommy Academy take the plunge at the Bert Lozada Swim School

McDonald's
KIDS ON
THE GO

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Fil-Am FX expert helps Superman fly

MARICEL Pagulayan says "Superman" was hard work ... "the longest project I have ever done."

Only IN Hollywood

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—"WE GOT TO know every centimeter of **Brandon Routh's** body."

Maricel Lopez Pagulayan, visual effects production supervisor of "Superman Returns," said that line with a hearty laughter. Of course, getting to know the new Superman's body was all in the line of duty for the Fil-Am and her team: "We had to scan Brandon's body in order to create him digitally."

Sitting in a hotel restaurant right smack in Hollywood, Maricel noted the serendipity of our interview location. Downstairs was the bowling alley and bar where Brandon, as a struggling actor, worked as a bartender.

Talking softly but often breaking into hearty chuckle, Maricel is brown and petite, as Filipino as *adobo* (which she cooked while working on "Superman Returns" in Sydney).

She appeared touched when told that we sought her out because of an unprecedented number of requests from readers (especially **Albert Rodriguez**) asking us to confirm that a Fil-Am talent was behind "Superman Returns." "To be acknowledged is special," she said, appreciating the patience of folks who sat through the closing credits and noticed her Filipino-sounding name.

Filipinos have every right to be proud of Maricel. To oversee a staff responsible for element-visual effects crucial in the success of "Superman" is a very important job. Her unit faced many tough challenges, from digitally creating the corn fields that a young Superman bounces over (corn is not grown in the film's location, Australia, which subbed for rural America) to one of the movie's grandest visual effects (Superman preventing a huge jet from crash-landing into a crowded baseball stadium).

Body scan

Maricel's job also involved scanning Brandon's body while he was in his costume as Superman so he could be recreated flying, for example (She offered that the Man of Steel is the ultimate immigrant from outer space). That's how she came to be "intimate" with the actor's skin. "He was, shall we say, very modest, especially for a guy in tights," she said. Maricel also denied a buzz during the film's production: "I can say here and now that his 'package' was not digitally reduced."

With a roaring guffaw, she added, "He is a man among men."

What was the most fulfilling aspect in her "Superman" gig? "Finishing the movie," she quipped. "It was a long hard road. It was the longest project I have ever done." She was pointing to the tremendous work—"Superman's" hundreds of behind-the-scenes folks vastly improved on the technology introduced in "Star Wars," "Titanic" and "Spiderman."

Of director **Bryan Singer**, whom she worked with in a similar capacity in "X-Men 2," Maricel commented, "He is one of the most demanding directors. It did not matter that we were doing a comic book film, not a dramatic film. He was always challenging us."

Pinoy heritage

She credited her Filipino heritage for imbuing her with a work ethic that made her endure 18 months of working 10- to 18-hour days. Maricel's parents are the late **Luis Pagulayan** of Cagayan de Oro, who was with the US Navy, and **Ester Pagulayan**, a UP nursing graduate of Cabinti, Laguna, who now lives in LA.

While she was born and raised in the US, Maricel spent two years of high school in Maryknoll in the Philippines. An older sister went to UP and two younger brothers, to San Sebastian. She explained, "We all went back to the Philippines. It was the result of my parents' 'Roots' syndrome. It was a complete cultural shock, especially since I came from a public school in America and then went to this all-girl Catholic school in the Philippines."

Having housemaids who will do everything, including giving her a bath, also surprised her. "Don't touch me," she said, recalling the prospect of having a maid bathe her. She continued, "I was going to wash my clothes until we found out that we didn't have a washing machine."

Back in the US in her college years, she enrolled at the University of California, Berkeley. Like most first-generation Filipinos, she started as a pre-med student but realized she "can't do it."

Switching to political science and getting involved with Filipino student groups was an eye-opener for Maricel. "It was my first awakening about what it means to be a Filipino. A lot of it came from understanding our history, not only of Filipinos in the Philippines but also the Filipinos in the US. And reading classic books by **Carlos Bulosan**, made me appreciate the hardships that the first wave of Filipino immigrants went through."

Total eclipse

Serious work in radio journalism, theater, television and indie film production, for which she has earned some numerous awards, has been eclipsed by her jobs in "comic-book films" like "Superman" and "X-Men 2." "They pay the rent," she said.

As for the double sword she has to face as a woman and member of the minority in Hollywood, she opined, "In filmmaking, as in other fields, people want to work with those who have known qualities, who are good at what they do." Good work begets more opportunities, which is why Singer hires the same people, which includes Maricel.

But she stressed that she had to work hard to

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Goldilocks 40 Thoughtful Years!

Travelogue with a twist

But 'Pinoy Meets World' needs better cameras

ANOTHER challenge for tandem Paolo Bediones and Miriam Quiambao

By Paul Daza
Contributor

"PINOY MEETS WORLD" IS GMA Network's all-new travelogue with a twist. Airing Sundays at 7 p.m., the half-hour show is hosted by Paolo Bediones and Miriam Quiambao (of "Extra Challenge" fame), who visit other countries on this semi-lonely planet and report on what they see through distinctly Pinoy eyes. The twist? In addition to the usual sight-seeing, shopping, and trivia-seeking, Paolo and Miriam also seek out extreme sports activities that each locale has to offer.

Last Sunday's episode plunked the athletic pair in Korea, land of "Jewel In The Palace." There, Paolo went on an eye-filling submarine ride and rode an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) through muddy fields. Miriam bungee jumped more than 200 feet, went on a bumpy river raft ride, and learned Korea's national sport, taekwondo.

REVIEW

The episode was wonderfully paced and informatively written. It also had a rich and affecting music score that enhanced the scenery—like the tranquility of a Buddhist temple and the adrenaline rush of a hair-raising ride through raging waters.

Hosting style

But the more traditional type of tourists who simply want to ogle stuff would have liked the Korean Folk Village. In the 240-acre theme park showcasing the finest traits and traditions of the country, tourists can walk through a centuries-old village, witness a Korean wedding, or be awestruck by acrobatic feats.

As for the hosting style, not much has changed with the way Paolo Bediones delivers his spiels. He still sounds like a smart and friendly *kuya* talking to elementary school pupils. On the other hand, recent events in her personal life may have something to do with a new perceptible depth in Miriam Quiambao's reactions to her challenges. After the hair-raising bungee jump, the lovely host unexpectedly started crying and said the plunge made her realize that one should trust God no matter what He throws one's way.

Could be better

In two instances, Quiambao wished for world peace. The first was at the end of her taekwondo lesson; the second before a pile of rocks at the Korean Folk Village.

Maybe she should have wished for better cameras for her newest show, because if there's one area where "Pinoy Meets World" could vastly improve on, it's in the quality of its videos. To put it bluntly, the unpolished images don't do the lovely locations justice. Even the now-defunct "Jologs Guide," which used to air on "Pinoy Meets World's" current time slot, looked classier, with certain segments sporting a glossy film look. With a travelogue like "Pinoy Meets World," shouldn't the moving pictures be more polished, at least on par with those seen on the Discovery channel or National Geographic? True, such cameras are more expensive, but the very nature and genre of the show demands this additional expense and effort.

For now, "Pinoy Meets World" looks like it was photographed with the same cameras used on "24 Oras" and the previous Paolo-Miriam team-up, "Extra Challenge." They may have been good enough for local shows, but they're not good enough for "Pinoy Meets World." It's abundant with charm and content, but the images don't quite soar.

SHANG CINEPLEX

① SUPERMAN RETURNS
MTRCB GP
12:15, 3:30, 6:45, 10:00

② SUPERMAN RETURNS
MTRCB GP
1:30, 4:45, 8:00

③ SEE NO EVIL
MTRCB R-18
1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 7:55, 10:00

④ SUPERMAN RETURNS
MTRCB GP
2:30, 5:45, 9:00

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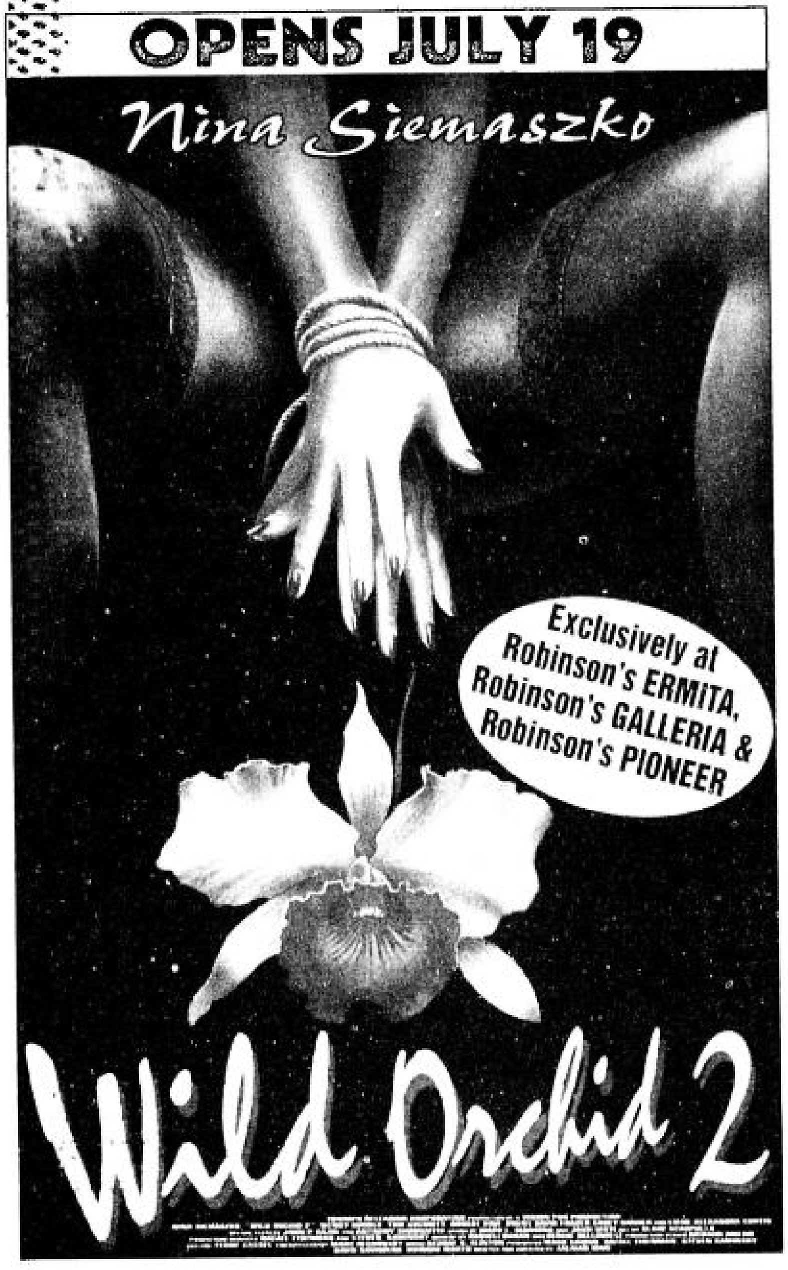
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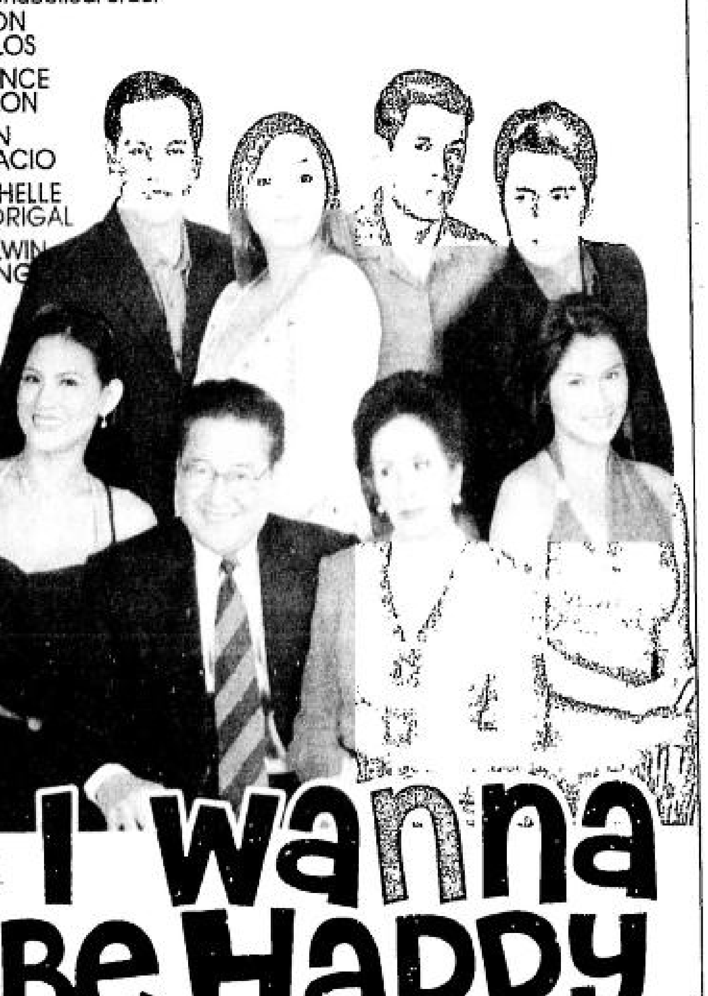
CHRISTIAN VAZQUEZ ALFRED VARGAS
KEANNA REEVES as Cristy and JOEY MARQUEZ

in alphabetical order
JASON ABALOS
TERENCE BAYLON
DION IGNACIO
MICHELLE MADRIGAL
& ALWIN UYTING



I wanna Be Happy

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written and directed by
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2	SUPERMAN RETURNS 12:10, 3:40, 7:00, 10:30 GP
3	SUPERMAN RETURNS 12:50, 4:20, 7:45, 11:10 GP
4	SEE NO EVIL 12:25, 2:30, 4:35, 6:40, 8:45, 10:50 R-18

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SUPERMAN RETURNS G 1:50,5:00,8:10	SEE NO EVIL R18 12:00,2:00,4:00,6:00,8:00	SUPERMAN RETURNS G 12:40,3:50,7:00,10:10

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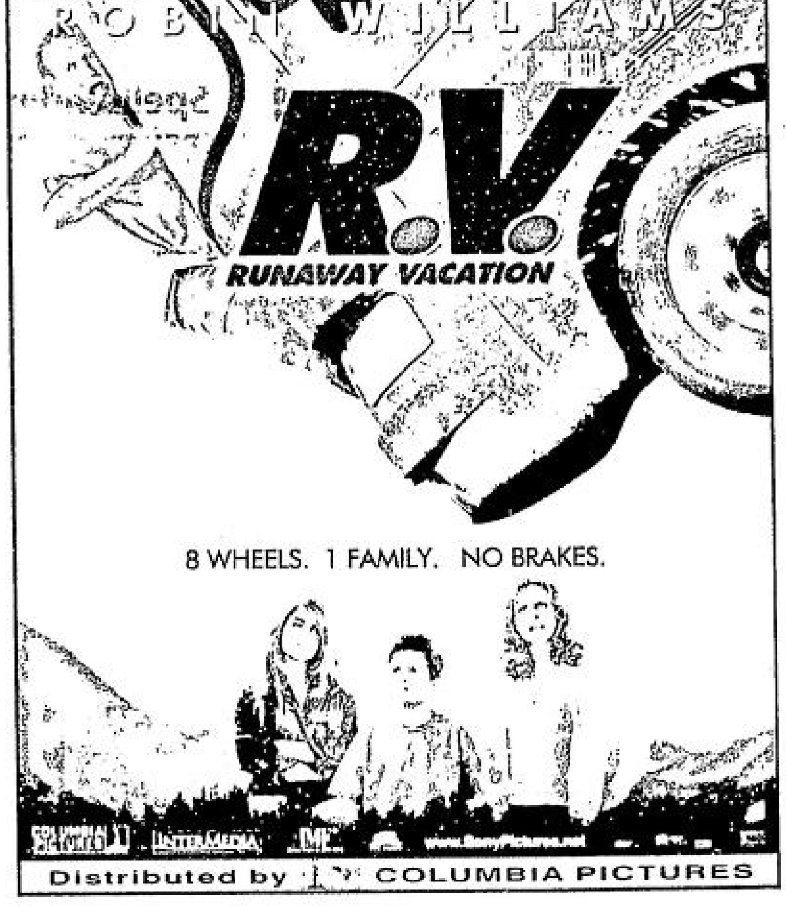

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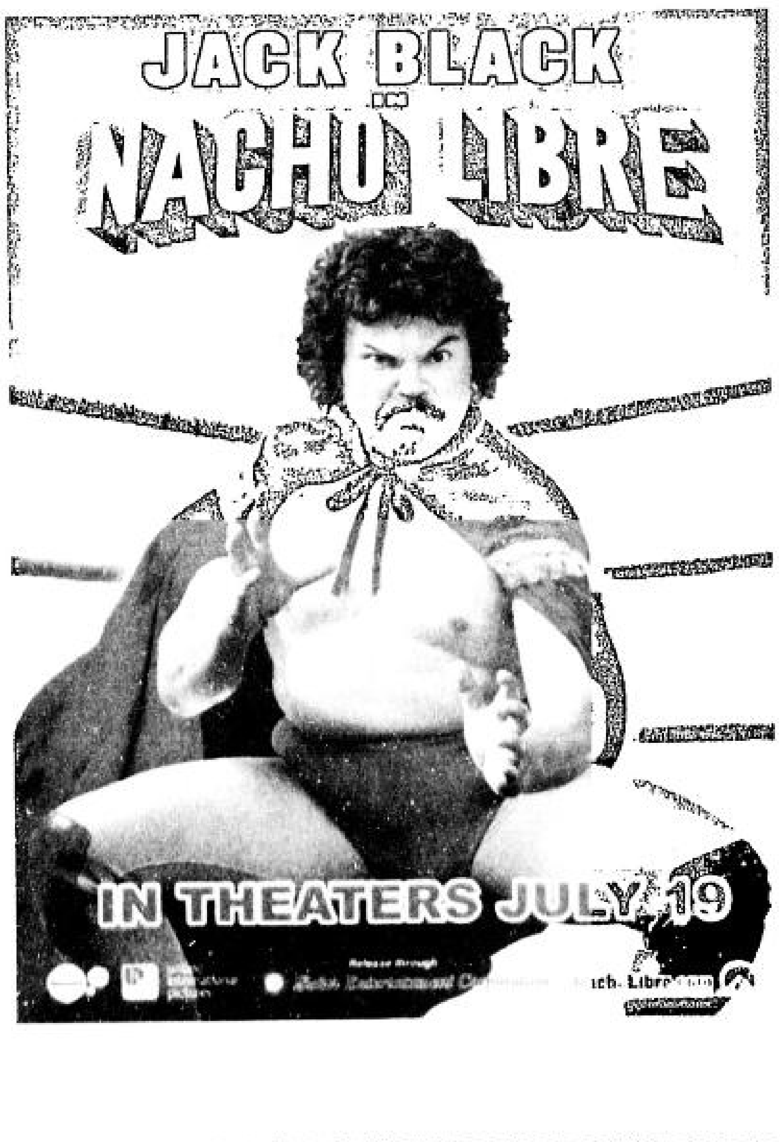

Obligation to our children

FEEDBACK

From Georgina Angsanto, 143 Porvenir St., Pasay City:

AS A CIVILIZED AND MORALLY DIGNIFIED nation, we Filipinos have an obligation to our most precious national treasures—the Filipino children.

And yet, every morning beginning at 9 a.m. on free TV channels ABC 5, RPN 9 and IBC 13, children are exposed to promotional videos of breast enhancers. Instead of the previous regular cartoon programming, children are exposed to programs that reduce women into sexual objects whose success and happiness are based entirely on their bust size.

Kids' right

Children have the right to be protected from obscenity. These "infomercials" not only have breasts as their sole subject of interest, but also suggest that breasts are the only measure of a woman's worth.

Under the Children's Television Act of 1997, children's viewing hours (7 a.m. – 7 p.m.) must be closely monitored with the intention of protecting kids' sensibilities. Aside from it being a law, two recent issues prove that we take very seriously the responsibility of protecting our children from obscenity.

First, the MTRCB recently penalized a late night show "I-Witness" for the episode "Lukayo," about a tradition that is sexual in nature. The MTRCB claims that this was an inappropriate subject for free TV.

Questioned

Second, the recently implemented module on sex education where children are made to bring eggplants and bananas to class is being questioned for appropriateness. In comparison, "infomercials" for breast enhancer products are not even educational in content or intention. And yet they are aired in time slots highly accessible to children of such an impressionable age.

To quote one of these "infomercials": "It's aesthetics, They say that even if you have a beautiful face, if you have a cup A for your breasts, you won't look that attractive."

Are these the values we would allow our children to be taught? Should we allow these materials to corrupt young minds and have them grow up with degraded perceptions of themselves?

Dehumanizing

Free TV channels have an obligation to provide responsible programming especially during children's viewing hours. If such channels take the effort to replace curse words in movies or foreign canned shows with a beep, it should moreover take action about these infomercials. At least push these value-degrading ads into a later time when viewership is less aimed at and less accessible to children.

We pride ourselves in being a Catholic country, but if we are not even responsible enough as to shield the innocents in our society from dehumanizing values, no religion can save us from indifference. Beyond nursing a guilty conscience, we urge those in authority to do something about this violation against children.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

A	T	O	M	■	A	D	I	M	E	■	N	I	G	E	R	■	■	D	O	O
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A	D	A	I	R	■	A	O	R	T	A	S	■	■	S	I	N	C	E	R	E
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I	L	L	■	A	O	K	■	■	R	E	S	A	I	D	■	■	R	Y	E	S
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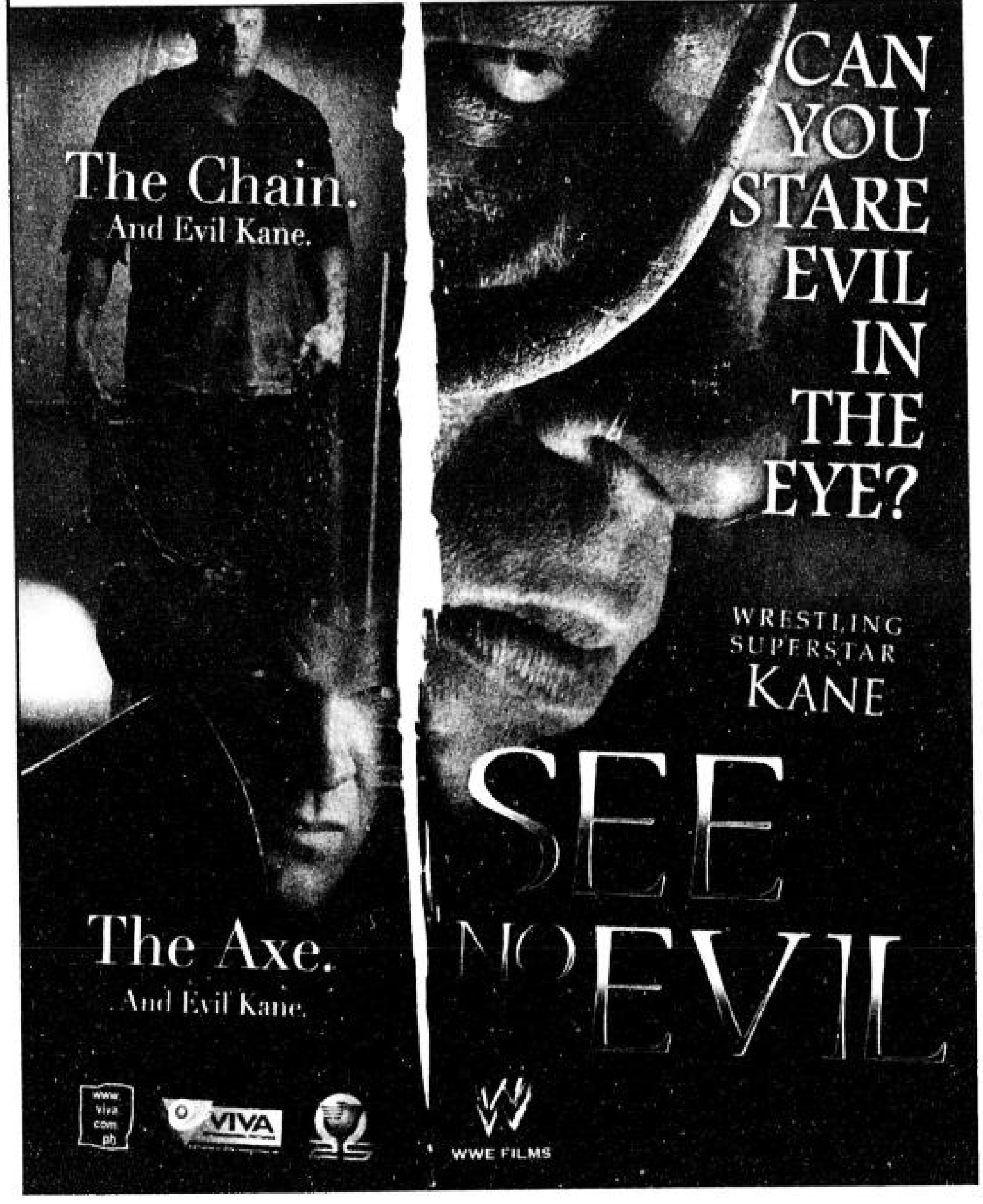
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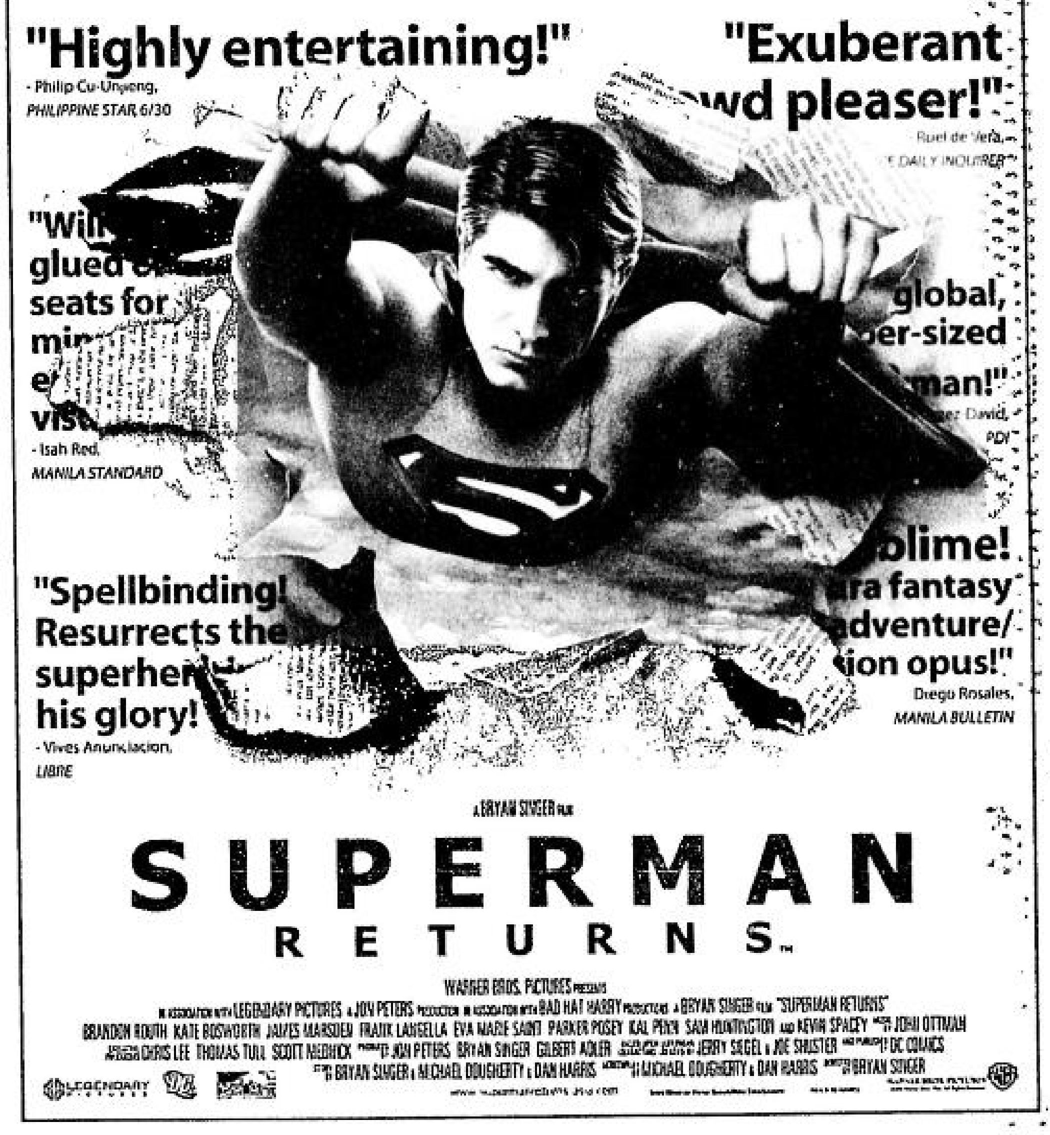
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"Exuberant ...wd pleaser!"
Ruel de Vera, ...E DAILY INQUIRER
"Wil... glued ... seats for mi... e... vis...
- Isah Red, MANILA STANDARD
"...global, ...er-sized ...man!"
...ez David, PDI
"Spellbinding! Resurrects the superhe... his glory!
- Vives Anunciacion, LIBRE
...blime! ...ra fantasy adventure/ ...ion opus!"
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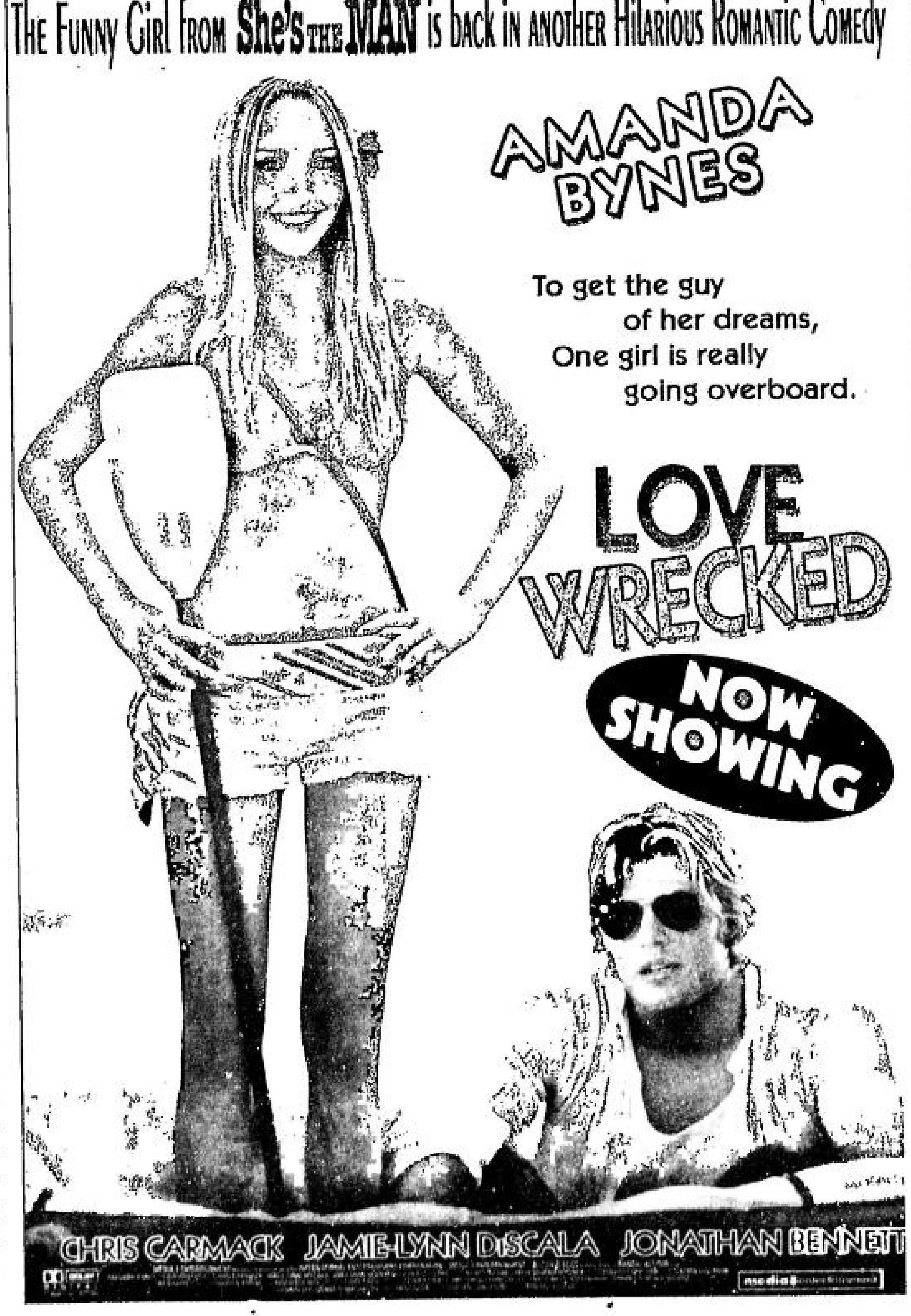
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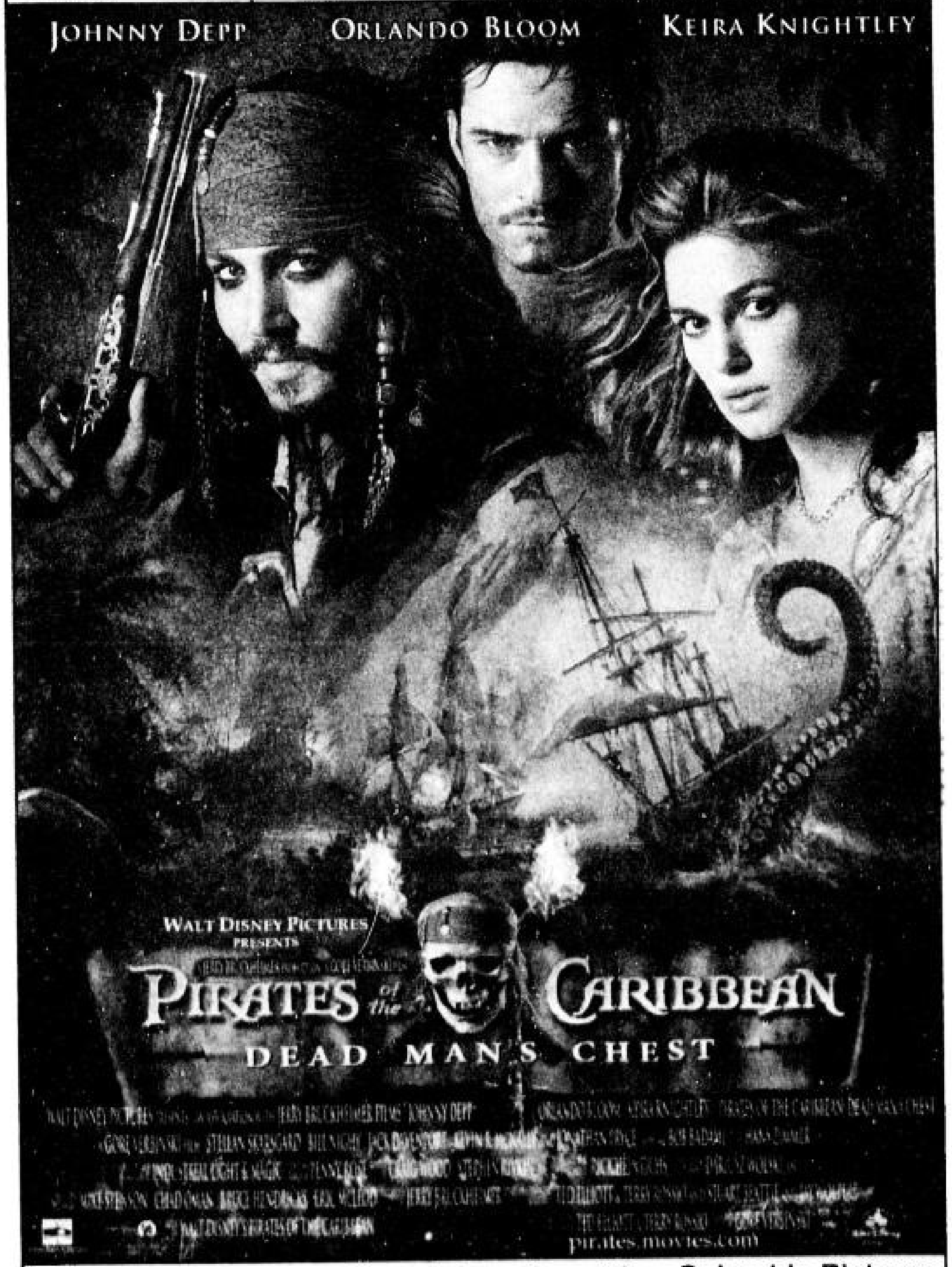
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GALLERIA 632-9116

1 SUPERMAN RETURNS • THX
12:00 3:10 6:20 9:30
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00
3 SEE NO EVIL
1:30 3:35 5:40 7:45 9:50
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
11:30 2:40 5:50 9:00
5 LOVE WRECKED
11:25 1:30 3:35 5:40 7:45 9:50
6 UNITED 93
12:10 2:35 5:00 7:25 9:50
7 LAKE HOUSE
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
8 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3
12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:00
9 SPL
1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00
10 SCARY MOVIE 4
1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:50

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
10:20 1:15 4:10 7:05 10:00
2 UNITED 93
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
3 SEE NO EVIL
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00
4 SPL
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
5 LOVE WRECKED
10:20 12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00
6 LAKE HOUSE
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
7 SUPERMAN RETURNS
12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 THE NUN
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
11:25 2:40 5:55 9:10
3 SEE NO EVIL
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10
4 LOVE WRECKED
12:10 2:25 4:40 6:55 9:10
5 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
6 LAKE HOUSE
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
7 SUPERMAN RETURNS
12:15 3:35 7:00
8 SPL
2:35 4:45 6:55 9:00

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 SPL
4 SEE NO EVIL

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 SCARY MOVIE 4
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

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1 UNITED 93
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 SEE NO EVIL
4 LOVE WRECKED

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2 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3
3 SILENT HILL
4 THE NUN

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 BANDIDAS
3 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING
4 GARFIELD 2

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 THE NUN
3 SPL
4 SEE NO EVIL

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 SEE NO EVIL
3 TAKE THE LEAD
4 THE INSIDE MAN

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270

1 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING
2 THE LAST HOLIDAY
3 THE NUN
4 SEE NO EVIL
5 SUPERMAN RETURNS
6 SUPERMAN RETURNS

BACOLOD (034) 441-0463 (034) 441-0459

1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 CHAOS
3 LAKE HOUSE
4 THE RENT
5 TAKE THE LEAD
6 THE OMEN

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 LAKE HOUSE
4 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING

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REVIEW

A dark urban epic

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

THERE'S ENOUGH ACTION AND blood-spilling to back up the swagger and machismo of the dark urban landscape in "SPL (Kill the Bent Wolf)." For those already jaded about big-budgeted mainstream action films' fascination with cable-aided martial artistry, "SPL" will be a riveting change of pace, as it employs extensively trained action stars who do their own gravity-defying stunts and elaborate fight scenes. This back-to-basics approach lends the Hong Kong cop drama a rewarding authenticity. This film is screening at just a handful of R-18 cinemas, so action aficionados are advised to catch it while they can.

According to online information, "SPL" or "Sha Po Lang" refers to Chinese astrological symbols, specifically three stars that signify inner conflict or upheaval. Since there is no elaboration about the title's significance, it may be assumed that the three stars point to the three major character-metaphors. Wong Po (Sammo Hung), a formidable crime lord, is relentlessly pursued by an ailing cop, Chan (Simon Yam), and his no-nonsense replacement, Ma Kwan (Donnie Yen).

Few surprises

These three are in conflict with each other as much as they are with themselves, but there are very few real surprises, story-wise. The dying policeman, repeatedly failing to bring in the drug lord, tampers with evidence and links him to a recent murder. The new cop has to deal with them both, but sides with the lesser evil, expectedly, and relinquishes due process to bring down the unrepentant bad guy. Each has a sympathetic side, as well as intriguing personal demons, so it's easy to wallow in murky shades of grey with them.

Veteran action star Hung's brooding turn as Wong Po is unusually appealing, and unsurprisingly imposing. He's heavier and older, but he still has the moves and captivating ferocity that made him a unique aberration in the predominantly lean action hero arena. He's able to show off and shine, thanks in part to Yen's intricate action choreography, which complements director Wilson Yip's straightforward storytelling. The rapid exchange of kicks, jabs, and stabs are frenetic yet fluid; blink and you're likely to miss a lot. One outstanding sequence pits Yen's character against a dagger-wielding assassin (Wu Jing). Another stunt showcase is a nighttime rooftop chase involving several actors. The slugfests don't let up, and they don't end the way you expect them to, at least most of the time.

Comeuppance

The film doesn't adhere to narrative norms when it comes to clean resolutions, however, particularly after it reaches its climax. It may seem unfulfilling that the comeuppance is dealt by karmic retribution rather than by a direct action of the aggrieved party (Chan), but this, however forced, connects the story to its cosmic symbolism. The characters' personal victories are rightly pyrrhic, in that sense. There is vagueness near the end, but in its entirety, "SPL" has a rare sense of urgency, dramatic resonance, and artistic precision

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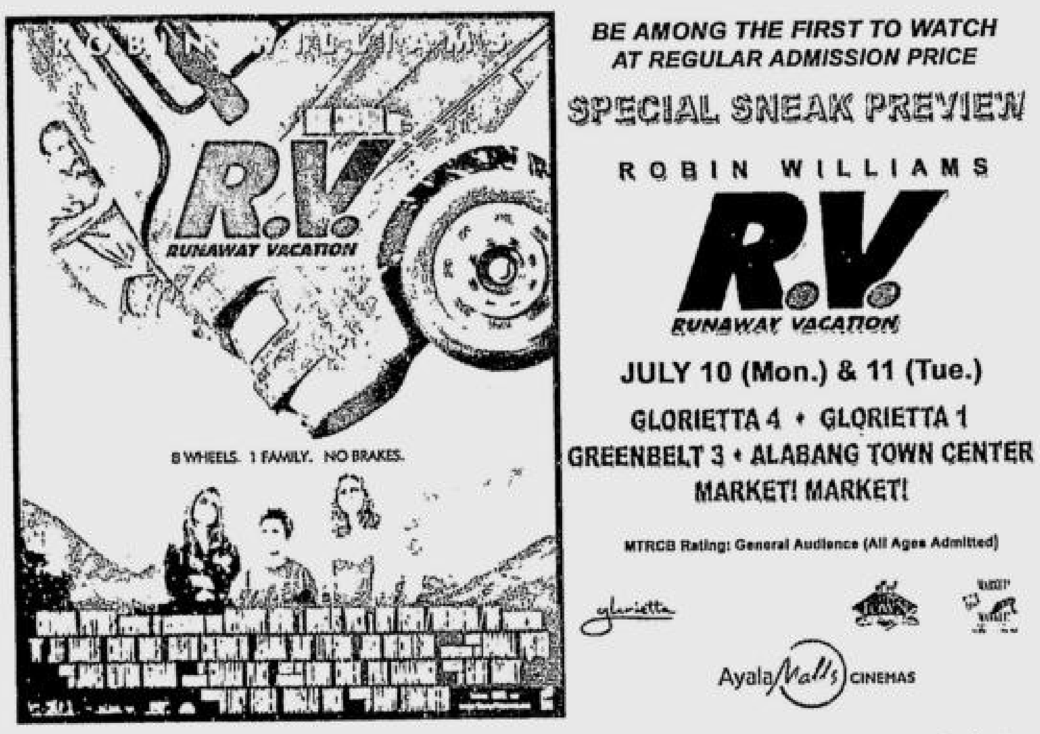
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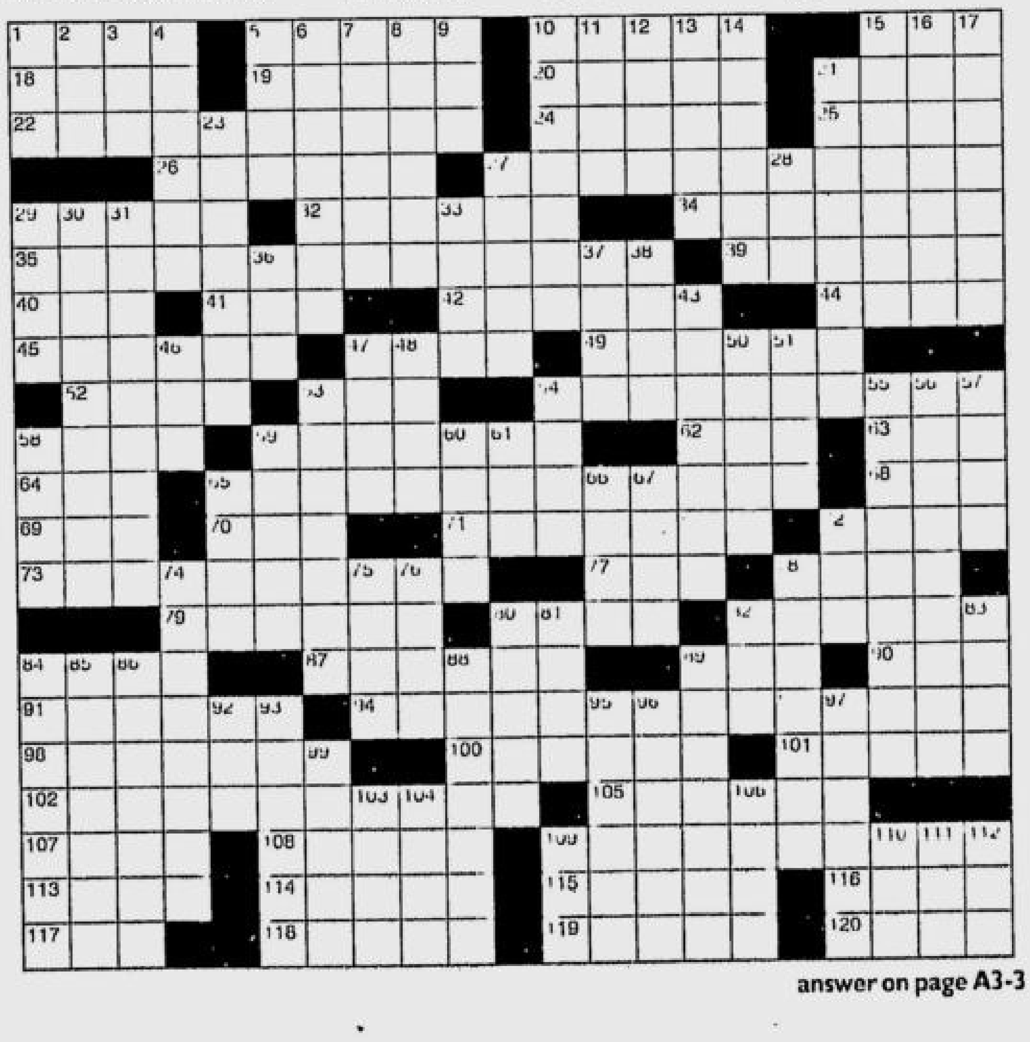
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo AMERICA

ACROSS
1 Electron's place
5 Stop on —
10 African country
15 Whoop-de- —
18 "Explorer" of kids' cartoons
19 Broadway awards
20 Writer Zola
21 Omani, e.g.
22 During a 16-week period, e.g.?
24 Bruno — (designer shoe brand)
25 Capture
26 Middle, in Middlesex
27 Fail to get refilled?
29 Heroic fireman Red
32 Vital conduits
34 Honest
35 Deli meats going bad?
39 Closer
40 Feverish
41 "All systems go!"
42 Iterated
44 Bread and whiskey
45 "— in the Boy's Room"
47 Get, as a job
49 Make an offer before an auction starts
52 Quite dry
53 Bush's gp.
54 Waistband worn in Albania and Greece?
58 Volcano in Sicily
59 Tenor Pavarotti
62 Author Deighton
63 Hitachi rival
64 Prefix with rhythm
65 Bright yellow songbirds?
68 Foyer floor cover
69 See 113-Across
70 Slip- — (pullovers)
71 Some tax felons
72 Neck part
73 Residence east of Syracuse?
77 Forest ranger
78 Conceal
79 Antique Chrysler
80 Writing options
82 Slander
84 Binary
87 Slate cleaner
89 Director Howard
90 Mauna —
91 Place in categories
94 Venetian boats that have been run aground?
98 Act of kicking out
100 "Broken Arrow" actor Michael
101 Joplin of ragtime
102 Good qualities of surgical gloves?
105 Very popular
107 "Likely story!"
108 — situation
109 They're hidden in this puzzle's eight longest answers
113 With 69-Across, losing candidate
114 Kevin of "The Big Chill"
115 Anthem start
116 Nine- — battery
117 Match unit
118 "Against the Wind" singer Bob
119 Batik artists
120 TV trophy

DOWN
1 Foofaraw
2 "Mazel —!"
3 Refinable rock
4 A "Brady Bunch" girl
5 Lots and lots
6 Response to "Rough day?"
7 Opening bits
8 Cry to a savior, perhaps
9 Letter before tee
10 Archrival
11 Mosque priest
12 Prefix between mega- and tera-
13 New York's — Island
14 Bring under control
15 Curtain
16 Acorn source
17 Folks toeing the line
21 PIN money sources?
23 Woman-fish combo
27 Rose on the hind legs, with "up": Sl.
28 NYC-to-Boston dir.
29 Warts and all
30 Spotted dog
31 Not allowing for compromise
33 Swivel
36 Cyclotron particle
37 West Coast wine valley
38 Damsel
43 Nobel-winning South African president
46 Sephia's car maker
47 Bonkers
48 Neat as —
50 Actor Max's family
51 Hostelries
53 Sleuth, in slang
54 — fide
55 Plated critter
56 Fall guy
57 Loathe
58 River in Spain
59 Horne and Olin
60 To — (perfectly)
61 Pt. of USNA
65 Rich supply
66 Yemen port
67 Solidifies
72 Not a thing
74 "It would be my pleasure!"
75 Other, in Oaxaca
76 Extinct ostrich relatives
78 Like some training
80 Drudges
81 Goofs up
82 Tue. preceder
83 Publisher Conde —
84 Ball-shaped flowers
85 Of service
86 For diagnostic purposes
88 He played Captain Kirk
89 Pothole filler
92 Critic Reed
93 Gratitude
95 Practical
96 Garage goo
97 C to C, e.g.
99 "— Mio"
103 Deep drink
104 Essen article
106 Attention-getters
109 Lay turf on
110 Aunt's sister
111 Stately tree
112 Pig's place



answer on page A3-3

Malaysians 'in love' with Echo, Diether ...

RUSHES

JERICHO ROSALES AND KRISTINE Hermosa are big stars in Malaysia because of the popularity there of their *telenovelas* "Pangako sa 'Yo" and "Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas."

KRISTINE Hermosa and Diether Ocampo

On a recent visit to Kuala Lumpur, INQUIRER Entertainment stumbled on proof of this—not once, but thrice.

Learning his passengers were Filipinos, a taxi driver said his daughter is so "in love with Jericho" that she would rush from school just to catch "Pangako," dubbed in Malaysian.

A waitress asked for a photo of Kristine's, and said she also liked Jericho, Angelika de la Cruz and Diether Ocampo.

A convenience store cashier said he had attended the concert of Echo and his band Jeans in a mall.

CLAUDINE Barretto

But Malaysian stardom was not limited to Kapamilya artists.

"Enteng Kabisote 2" was played repeatedly on a cable station.

In another restaurant, Freddie Aguilar's "Anak" was being played ... in Tagalog!

Speaking of "Anak," the Star Cinema movie headlined by Vilma Santos and Claudine Barretto, was recently shown on a Japanese cable channel.

Hunks for hire

HUNKY actors are allegedly offering their "services" to gays and matrons... for P10,000 to P40,000.

One guy was allegedly caught by his ex-wife "entertaining" a male client in his car.

Another sexy actor (who is way past his sell-by date) hangs out in a popular gym, looking to hook up with rich customers.

Clinically speaking

WHO is this soap opera star who is as complicated as the disturbed women she plays on screen?

She blows hot and cold, according to a friend. "She's so fake," fumed another.

No, she's not just moody.

She was supposedly diagnosed by a psychologist as manic-depressive.

"She's bi-polar. At least, she's not bisexual," says her politically incorrect groupie.

Chatty star

A SEXY star is reportedly in big trouble for being too talkative.

She violated the non-disclosure clause of her contract for a reality show by bragging about it to her friends in the media.

If her employer chooses to pursue the case and she decides to settle, it could set her back millions ... in dollars!

Downey bio

NEW YORK—Robert Downey Jr., whose own life story at times has been gripping, intends to write his memoirs.

The 41-year-old actor has signed a deal with HarperEntertainment, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, the company announced Thursday. The book is set to be released in 2008.

AP

Cheers for 'Grey'

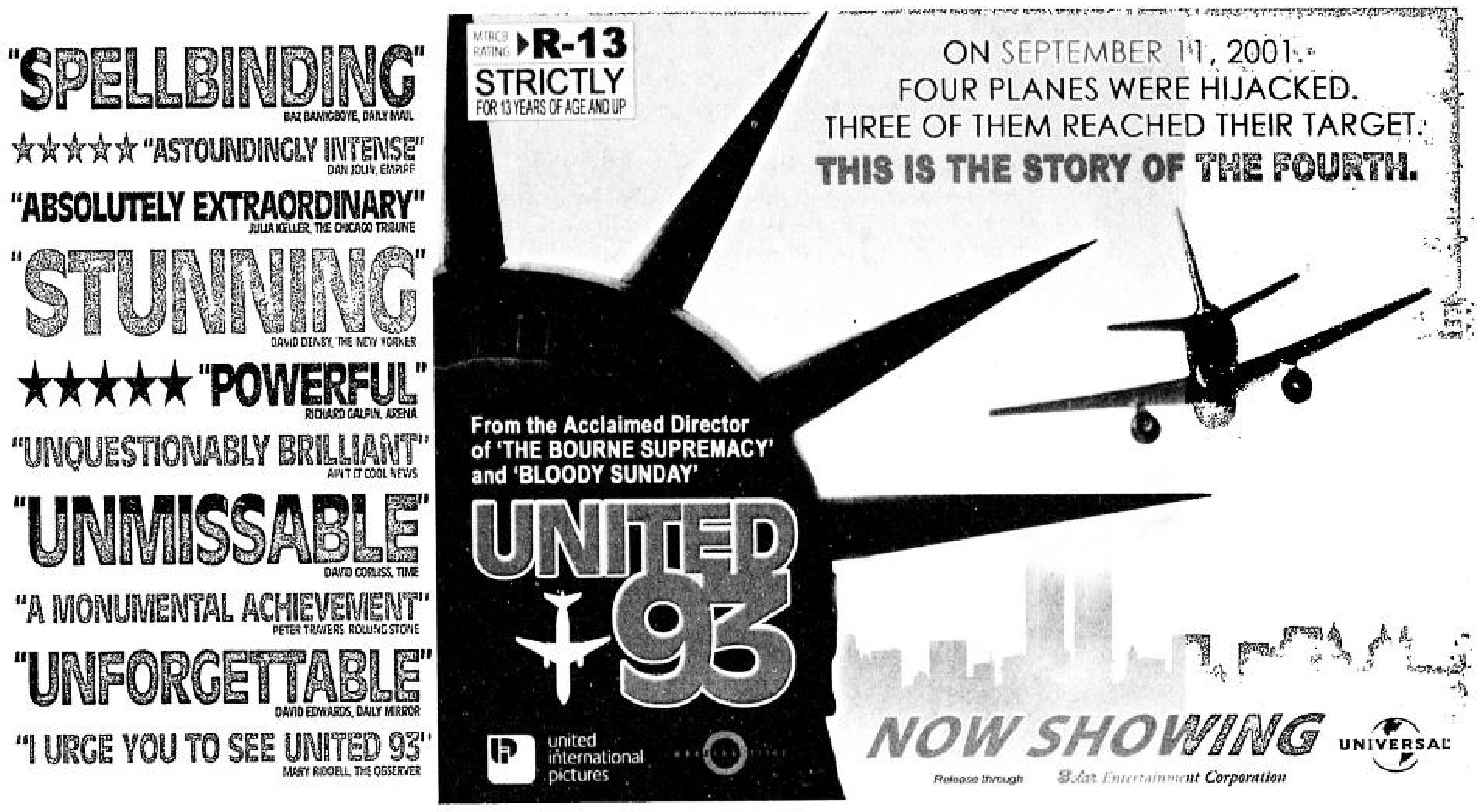
LOS ANGELES—The Fox network's spy series "24" captured 12 Emmy nominations and ABC's hospital drama "Grey's Anatomy" earned 11, organizers said Thursday.

The 58th annual Emmy Awards will be awarded on Aug. 27 in Los Angeles.

"Will and Grace," the comedy series which has just completed its eight-year run, snared 10 nominations.

Two of the most popular US television shows, "Desperate Housewives" and "Lost," were absent from the nominations after topping last year's awards, although their stars remain favorites of the celebrity press.

AFP


"SPELLBINDING" BAZ BAMIGBOYE, DAILY MAIL
★★★★★ "ASTOUNDINGLY INTENSE" DAN JOLIN, EMPIRE
"ABSOLUTELY EXTRAORDINARY" JULIA KELLER, THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE
"STUNNING" DAVID DENBY, THE NEW YORKER
★★★★★ "POWERFUL" RICHARD GALPIN, ARENA
"UNQUESTIONABLY BRILLIANT" AIN'T IT COOL NEWS
"UNMISSABLE" DAVID CORLISS, TIME
"A MONUMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT" PETER TRAVERS, ROLLING STONE
"UNFORGETTABLE" DAVID EDWARDS, DAILY MIRROR
"I URGE YOU TO SEE UNITED 93" MARY RIDDELL, THE OBSERVER
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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
G1 GLORIETTA 1	SUPERMAN RETURNS	SUPERMAN RETURNS	LOVEWRECKED	SEE NO EVIL			
G4 GLORIETTA 4	SUPERMAN RETURNS	SUPERMAN RETURNS	THX SUPERMAN RETURNS 12:45, 4:00, 7:15, 10:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	SEE NO EVIL	UNITED 93	SUPERMAN RETURNS	THE FAST & THE FURIOUS TOKYO DRIFT
GB1 GREENBELT 1	UNITED 93	SUPERMAN RETURNS					
GB3 GREENBELT 3	THX SUPERMAN RETURNS 1:10, 4:20, 7:30, 10:40 GUARANTEED SEATS	THX SUPERMAN RETURNS 3:10, 6:20, 9:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	UNITED 93 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	LOVEWRECKED 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS	SUPERMAN RETURNS 2:00, 5:10, 8:20, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	THX SUPERMAN RETURNS	LOVEWRECKED	SUPERMAN RETURNS	SEE NO EVIL	UNITED 93		
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	SUPERMAN RETURNS	SUPERMAN RETURNS	INSIDE MAN	SEE NO EVIL			
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	SUPERMAN RETURNS	SUPERMAN RETURNS	SEE NO EVIL	LOVEWRECKED	UNITED 93		

At the Activity Center

Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm
Greenbelt - 752 4853; from 11am to 12mn
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
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Caution: Film contains some scary scenes
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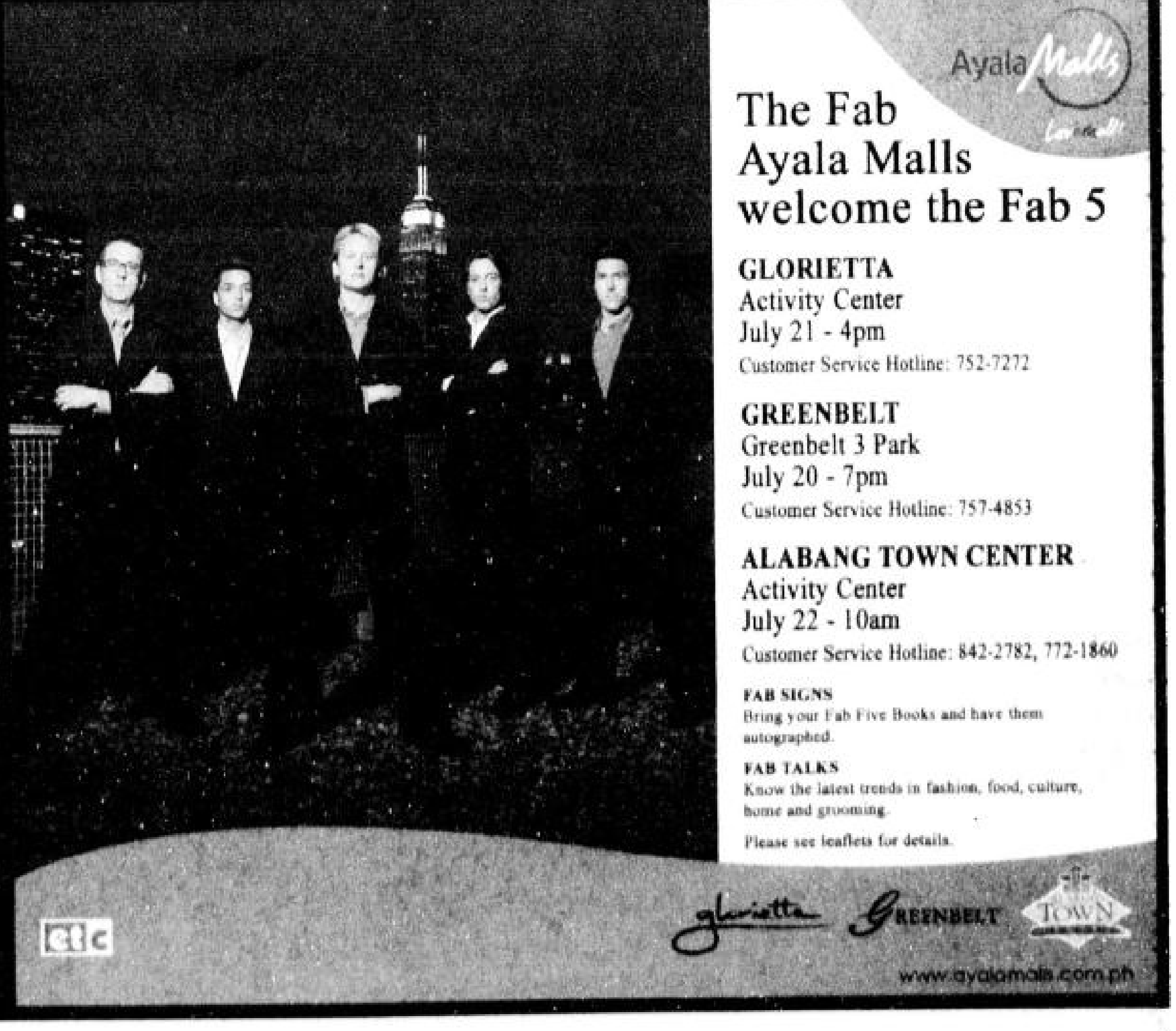
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Do You Have Dyspepsia?

Parang tambol ang tiyan. May kabag. Masakit ang sikmura. If you frequently experience these symptoms, you may have a common stomach condition known as Dyspepsia.

What is Dyspepsia?
Dyspepsia is a recurring discomfort in the chest and stomach regions. Aside from **bloating, gas** and **stomach pains,** other symptoms include **heavy stomach, fullness** and **nausea.**

Dyspeptic symptoms usually appear when stomach movement slows down and food does not empty from the stomach. These symptoms often follow meals, but can occur anytime.

Treatment
Frequent remedies taken for Dyspepsia-like symptoms are drinks like tea, soft drinks or antacids. These remedies may relieve some, but not all of the symptoms of Dyspepsia.

A class of medication called Prokinetics can relieve Dyspeptic symptoms by restoring motility or normal stomach movement. Prokinetic drugs are what most doctors prescribe for Dyspepsia. The most prescribed Prokinetic drug is Domperidone, available in 10mg tablet form.

See Your Doctor
If symptoms persist, it is best to see your doctor. A Philippine Society of Gastroenterology (PSG) doctor will recommend the right treatment for Dyspepsia.

By Dr. Ramon E. Carpio
Chairman, Council on Dyspepsia
Philippine Society of Gastroenterology

Sa Dyspepsia,

Domperidone
Motilium

If symptoms persist, consult your doctor.

Fil-Am...

From page A3-1

get to where she is today. Opportunities were hard to come by when she decided to switch to a career in film and obtain a Master of Fine Arts degree at the American Film Institute in LA. "I washed windows, took out trash and got coffee for people," she shared.

Dream project

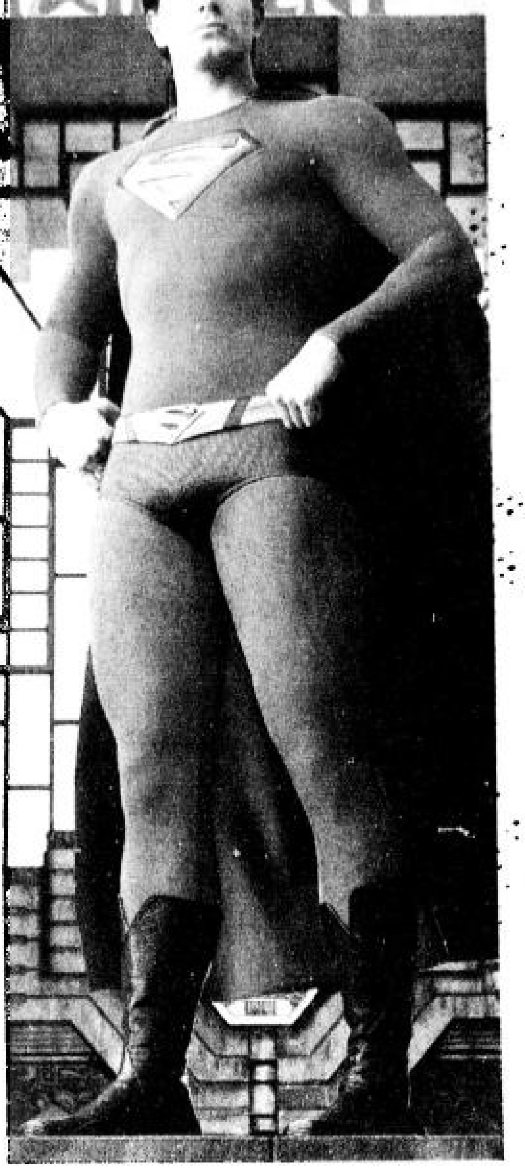
One of her dream projects is a film on painter **Juan Luna**. She has discussed the project with Fil-Am actor **Lou Diamond Phillips** and even hired a researcher to dig up archives on the artist's life in Spain. "I tried to get the rights from the Luna family but no one answered my correspondence," she said.

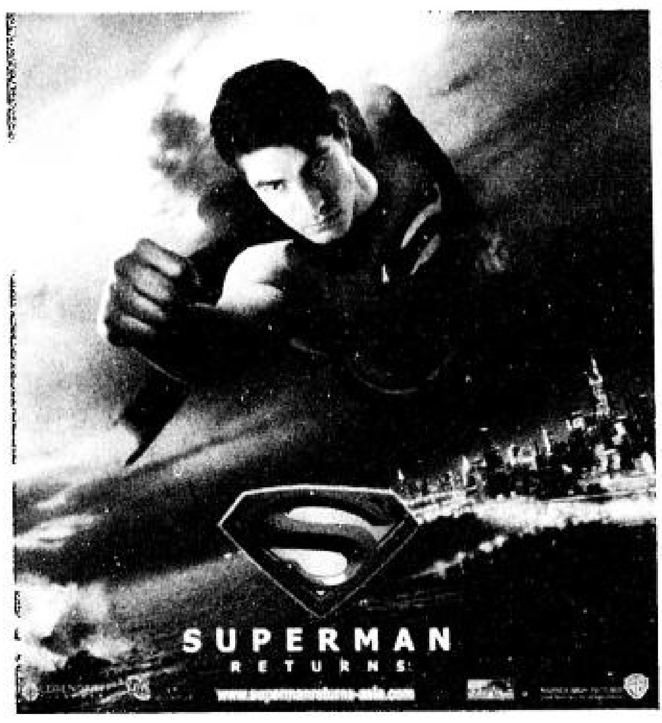
She is aware that her field is tapping the Philippines' vast pool of talents. "I understand that visual effects is a burgeoning industry in the Philippines, although it's in a very young stage. Visual-effects facilities are sprouting in India and Korea so I'm not surprised if similar infrastructure is also being set up in the Philippines."

Maricel will work next on "Where the Wild Things Are," **Spike Jonze**'s film adaptation of **Maurice Sendak**'s classic children's story. "I'll be leaving in a week and a half for Melbourne, Australia. You have to take these opportunities when they come. I was hoping to have a three-month vacation. I thought: Great, I'll be able to do my taxes now, catch up with house work and open my mail."

For now, though, she was just happy to spend her first weekend with her mother in a long time.

(E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.)





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Sunday BIZ

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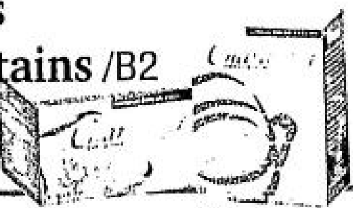
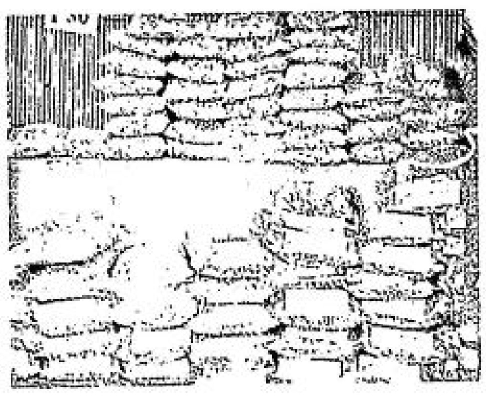
A grain of Igorot rice for P100 /B4





Beautiful game, handsome profits

World Cup fever affects RP

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

FOOTBALL FANS ARE NOT THE only ones sorry to see the World Cup tournament—the most celebrated sports event on the planet—come to its glorious end.

Hotels, bars, restaurants and retail shops are, too.

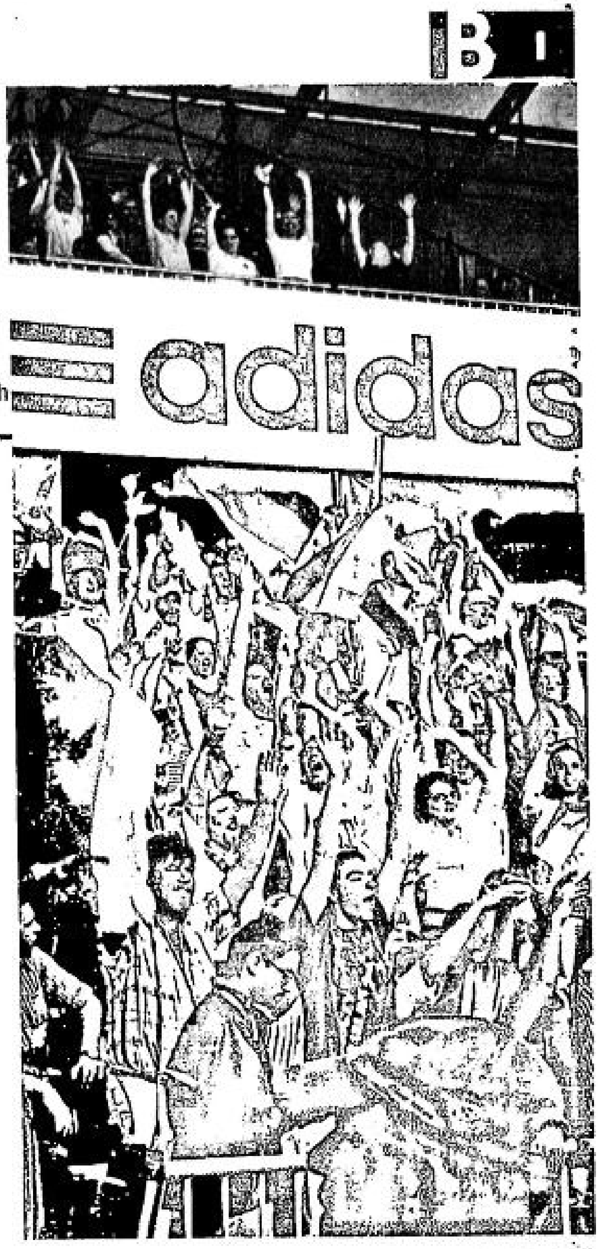
In London, British sportswear firm Umbro Plc said it was on its way to meeting its year-end profit target, due to the strong sales of licensed England shirts in the run-up to the 76th World Cup tournament.

Umbro said total sales in the six months to July 2 were up 41 percent, helped largely by the best-selling England jersey.

In host Germany, beer sales rose in May by the biggest margin in the year despite poor weather, according to government figures.

Beer sales rose by 8 percent in May to 10.8 million hectoliters, the biggest rise since a 10-percent increase during the same month in 2005.

BEAUTIFUL/B2



MORE Filipinos are getting excited over the World Cup.

Insular Life 2005 net income up by 20%

Insular Life, the largest Filipino life insurance company, realized a consolidated net income of P1.46 billion last year, 20% higher than the 2004 level of P1.21 billion.

Vicente R. Ayllon, chairman and CEO, attributed the healthy results to better asset quality, improved matching of investments to product liabilities, higher dividend income from a strong portfolio of equity investments, administrative cost savings from a more efficient customer servicing platform, and improved production from alternative distribution channels.

Citing Insular Life's financial stability and 95-year record of delivering on its contractual commitments, Ayllon said these factors have enabled the company to withstand the widespread erosion of public confidence in certain financial institutions that was brought about by the difficulties of leading pre-need companies.

Ayllon added that despite the political turmoil and difficult economic conditions in 2005, Insular Life generated gross premiums of P7.2 billion, which was comparable to 2004 results. Total revenues stood at P10 billion on the back of premium income and strong investment performance, which improved by 21% to P2.9 billion. Meanwhile, benefit payments to policyholders increased by 5% to P4.1 billion. Total assets increased by P1.8 billion, from P42.2 billion to P44.0 billion.

Members' equity improved by P2.7 billion, from P6.8 billion in 2004 to P9.5 billion by end 2005.

HINDI LANG KAMI MAYAMAN SA KARANASAN
(May P44 billion pa kaming assets, P10 billion revenues, P1.46 billion net income at P4.1 billion benefit payments to policy holders.)
999.9
96 years
INSULAR LIFE

All figures are based on 2005 audited financial statements.

Lahat ito, katunayan ng aming katatagan. Kaya tiwala ka na kahit anong mangyari, siguradong matutupad namin lahat ng ating kasunduan. Sigurado ang iyong kinabukasan. Yan ang pangako ng Insular Life.

Ampalaya climbs mountains

Austrian took Charantia to the top of Mt. Everest

By Michelle V. Remo

DOCTORS HAVE TOLD A GERMAN DIABETIC that he needed to have his legs amputated. He claimed that because he had become a regular drinker of Charantia from the Philippines, he was able to keep his legs.

Hearing the good news, a friend of his contacted Herbcare Corp., maker of the Charantia *ampalaya* food supplement, and asked if he could distribute Charantia in Germany.

That paved the way for the entry of Charantia into the German market.

Austrian mountain climber Geri Winkler, also a diabetic, likewise swears to Charantia's medical benefits.

Winkler always brings Charantia to his trips to the mountains, including Mt. Everest, the world's highest peak, to keep his blood sugar levels stable.

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onal home remedy
for diabetes...
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UPPLEMENT FOR DIABETICS
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D RECOMMENDED BY DOCTORS
Charantia
AMPALAYA FOOD SUPPLEMEN
Loose Tea Bits

DANIEL Abelarde

Charantia
Charantia
Charantia
SUGAR-FREE

SOME of Charantia's products

"It is personally fulfilling to know that we are able to help people. That is what's good about being in this business," says Daniel Abelarde, president of Herbcare.

And business has been good to Herbare.

Daniel says that until seven years ago, the Abelarde family was into the distribution of commodities. The family went into ampalaya when its clients repeatedly asked them if they carried dried ampalaya leaves.

"We got curious as to why people were asking us for dried amaplaya leaves. When we did our research, we found out what ampalaya can do to help maintain blood sugar and learned about the serious problem on the growing number of diabetics both here and worldwide," Daniel says.

Now, the family-owned Herbcare Corp., is the largest producer of supplements for diabetics and has already captured several markets abroad.

AMPALAYA/ B3

Beautiful game, handsome profits

From page B1

And as Germany powered its way into the semifinals before finally bowing out to Italy, beer sales were expected to have risen even further during the one-month duration of the World Cup finals.

And though Germany will have to content itself with either third or fourth place in the race for the hotly contested Jules Rimet trophy, the party continues, and that means more sales of its world-famous beer products.

The Philippines, where football is far from being as popular as basketball, has not been spared from the euphoria surrounding the quadrennial tournament, and local firms have been quick to seize the opportunity.

Ronald Valencia, cluster bar manager of TGI Friday's, says the restaurant chain bought the rights from Solar Entertainment to air games live at its Glorietta, Malate and Alabang Town Center branches, and the investment has paid off.

Valencia tells the INQUIRER that food and beverage sales grew from the time the tournament started last June 9.

He adds at least 100 people have already reserved seats at the Glorietta branch for tomorrow's final game between Italy and France that will air at 2 in the morning.

Valencia says he pushed for the airing of the World Cup games at TGIFriday's to cater to the needs of its regular foreign guests, as well as answer the clamor from a growing number of Filipino fans.

TGIFriday's usually takes the last orders at midnight. But with the games, it has extended operations to as late as 5 in the morning, with the kitchen working overtime.

He says he noticed that more Filipinos would watch whenever Brazil was playing, probably because it was the team that Filipinos were most familiar with.

"When Brazil played, 70 percent of our guests were local," Valencia says. "If other countries were playing, especially host Germany, more foreigners would watch."

Valencia says he expects the next World Cup tournament in South Africa to be even more exciting for Filipinos as they are finally experiencing the drama and the heart-stopping suspense that make football the world's most popular sport.

"I believe that in the next four years, Filipinos will be more into it, because they now know the mechanics and how exciting it is compared to other games like basketball," Valencia says. "The adrenaline is different."

Discovery Suites is seeing a similar growth.

Its Serendipity Lounge on the 22nd floor has been home to groups of football enthusiasts of different nationalities, and they cheer their home team while ordering cocktails and bar chow.

This was the first time that Discovery Suites aired the World Cup live and business has been brisk.

"We get a good mix of foreign and Filipino football fans who root for their favorite teams," says Matt Salcedo, food and beverage senior manager. "You can sense the excitement from start to finish. Our regulars are usually Asians and Europeans. Some of them are our long-stay guests."

Salcedo adds that when the tournament went down to the last four teams of Portugal, France, Italy and Germany, more Europeans came to watch.

"When the results of the quarter finals pointed toward an all-European final, we noticed a steady increase of Europeans among the crowd," says general manager Bobby Horrigan. "We knew that airing the World Cup live in the hotel was going to be appreciated by the guests, but the revenue generated from this venture was beyond what we expected."

Revenue so far has exceeded Discovery Suites' target by 60 percent.

The Hotel Philippine Plaza went the extra mile by decorating its Lobby Lounge, private dining rooms of the restaurant and the 24-hour Sports Bar with everything football.

It put in large television sets from Samsung and the service crew was provided uniforms by adidas for that added Fifa World Cup touch.

To complete the package, Hotel Philippine Plaza put together a menu featuring food from the countries that won the games since 1958.

Items on the menu include Brazilian spiced chicken wings, Italian calamari fritti, German *eisbein* and *sauerkraut*, British fish and chips, Argentinean Asado con Platanos and French Pissaladiere.

The effort was worth it.

According to Mo Ihsan, the hotel's executive assistant manager, food and beverage increased by at least 15 percent since the Fifa World Cup promotion began.

"Most of the guests came from countries whose teams were participating at the World Cup, such as Korea, Japan, Germany, France and Saudi Arabia," he says.

But perhaps the big winner in the World Cup is sports apparel firm adidas, which enjoys a long relationship with Fifa, the organizer of the World Cup tournament.

It may lag behind rival Nike in basketball, but it dominates the world of football, largely due to the global exposure provided by its sponsorship of the World Cup.

Joey Singian, managing director of adidas Philippines Inc., says that the Fifa World Cup is a big investment but a wise expense, considering the return to the brand because of sales and awareness.

"In 1998, we were no. 3 in France," Singian says. "After the World Cup, we were No. 1. In 2002, after the World Cup in Japan and Korea, we became No. 1 in those countries as well. So yes, of course the World Cup has helped increase sales in general."

This year's World Cup is even more special to adidas since it is being held in its home country of Germany.

The Philippines may have a long way to go before it manages to reach the sales of football related merchandise in other countries, but growth is there.

"We are pleased with the growing awareness of the sport in the Philippines," Singian says. "More and more are getting into the World Cup fever and our football products sales growth clearly show that."

He says that bestselling items in the Philippines are the official jersey of Germany, and the shirts of its football poster boy David Beckham and France's captain and hero Zinedine Zidane.

Also enjoying brisk sales is its teamgeist, the official ball of the World Cup especially made for this year's tournament by adidas.

For adidas and the other companies cashing in on the World Cup tournament, football becomes even more of a beautiful game.

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ISABELA

ANGADANAN

LOT 1 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 768.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 374.00 sqm.
Lot 2 Poblacion
Min Bid Price : 685,000.00

LOT 2 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 6,019.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 90.00 sqm.
Lot 1405, Canangan
Min Bid Price : 1,012,000.00

LOT 3 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 25,000.00 sqm.
Lot E-3-C Villa Domingo
Min Bid Price : 320,000.00

LOT 4 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 40,000.00 sqm.
Lot E-3-B Villa Domingo
Min Bid Price 450,000.00

AURORA

LOT 5 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 315.00 sqm.
Lot 4, Cor. Prov'l. Rd. & Cacal Sts., Bagon Lins, Sta Rita
Min Bid Price 455,000.00

BUGALLON NORTE

LOT 6 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,327.00 sqm.
Lot 4 Casuga St., Ramon
Min Bid Price 285,000.00

CABAGAN

LOT 7 - VACANT
Lot Area: 1,100.00 sqm.
Lot 2219-A, Barrio Of Cubag
Min Bid Price 74,000.00

CAUAYAN

LOT 8 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 200.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 72.00 sqm.
Lot 1-J-2-B Cabaruan
Min Bid Price 485,000.00

LOT 9 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 133.00 sqm.
Lot 1-B-2 Cabaruan
Min Bid Price 125,000.00

LOT 10 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 328.00 sqm.
Lot 1-A-4-A-4-E-6-C Eufronia Ave., Prenza
Min Bid Price : 551,000.00

LOT 11 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 382.00 sqm.
Lot 19, Silawit,
Min Bid Price : 87,000.00

LOT 12 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 450.00 sqm.
Floor Area 420.00 sqm.
Lot 20-E-6-E-1 Poblacion
Min Bid Price 8,406,000.00

LOT 13 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area. 260.00 sqm.
Lot 1-A-4-A-4-E-G-B-1 Eufronia Ave., Prenza
Min Bid Price 423,000.00

LOT 14 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 2000.00 sqm.
Lot B-5-E, Lot B-5-F-3-S-5, Nat'L Road, Prenza
Min Bid Price 6,843,000.00

LOT 15 - VACANT
Lot Area: 1,497.00 sqm.
Lots 1,3 & 5 Nat'L Road, Prenza (Formerly Minante)
Min Bid Price : 2,246,000.00

LOT 16 - VACANT
Lot Area: 1,629.00 sqm.
Lot B-5-B-1-C Cabaruan
Min Bid Price : 285,000.00

LOT 17 - VACANT
Lot Area: 354.00 sqm.
Lot 44 Centro
Min Bid Price : 73,000.00

LOT 18 - VACANT
Lot Area: 315.00 sqm.
Lot 3-H-1 Eufronia Ave., Prenza
Min Bid Price 524,000.00

DELFIN ALBANO

LOT 19 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 223.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 77.00 sqm.
Lot 599-B Along Provincial Rd., San Jose
Min Bid Price : 300,000.00

LOT 20 - VACANT
Lot Area: 1,105.00 sqm.
Lot 1-B-2 Along Provincial Road, Rizal
Min Bid Price : 282,000.00

LOT 21 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,920.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 210.00 sqm.
Lot 600-A & 600-B Along Provincial Road, San Jose
Min Bid Price 1,621,000.00

ECHAGUE

LOT 22 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 300.00 sqm.
Lot 13, E.M. Pinzon Subd., San Fabian
Min Bid Price : 240,000.00

LOT 23 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 300.00 sqm.
Lo[illegible] Subdivision, San Fabian
Min Bid Price 240,000.00
WITHDRAWN

LOT 24 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 300.00 sqm.
Lo[illegible] Pinzon Subd., San Fabian
Min Bid Price : 240,000.00
WITHDRAWN

LOT 25 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 300.00 sqm.
Lo[illegible] Subdivision, San Fabian
Min Bid Price : 240,000.00
WITHDRAWN

LOT 26 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 396.00 sqm.
Lo[illegible] Subd., San Fabian Echague
Min Bid Price 412,000.00
WITHDRAWN

FRIAR LANDS ESTATE

LOT 27 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 640.00 sqm.
Lot 424-C, Friar Lands Estate
Min Bid Price 164,000.00

ILAGAN

LOT 28 - VACANT
Lot Area 308.00 sqm.
Lot 3-A, Blk 3 Calamagui 2nd
Min Bid Price 210,000.00

LOT 29 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 233.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 191.00 sqm.
Lot 5, Blk 7 P. Apostol St., Calamagui 2nd
Min Bid Price : 458,000.00

LOT 30 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 503.00 sqm.
Floor Area. 102.00 sqm.
Lot 7139-A Alinguigan 2nd
Min Bid Price : 478,000.00

LOT 31 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 224+250=474 sqm.
Floor Area. 88.00 sqm.
Lot 3& 4, Blk 30 Rubia St., Greenheights Subd., Brgy. Alibagu
Min Bid Price : 699,000.00

LOT 32 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area. 123.00 sqm.
Floor Area. 237.00 sqm.
Lot 2-A-2 Capitol Ave., Calamagui 2nd
Min Bid Price 1,500,000.00

MALLIG

LOT 33 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area. 1,916.00 sqm.
Lot 1031-A-1-D Nat'L Road, Centro 1
Min Bid Price : 1,010,000.00

LOT 34 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 752.00 sqm.
Lot 3903, San Jose Norte
Min Bid Price 76,000.00

QUEZON

LOT 35 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 400.00 sqm.
Lot 2686-C, Abut
Min Bid Price 70,000.00

ROXAS

LOT 36 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 5,070.00 sqm.
Lo T5797-B, Sotero Nuesa
Min Bid Price : 416,000.00

LOT 37 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area [illegible]
Lo[illegible] Site, Bantug
Min Bid Price : 218,000.00
WITHDRAWN

LOT 38 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area [illegible]
Lo[illegible] Site Bantug
Min Bid Price . 215,000.00
WITHDRAWN

LOT 39 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area [illegible]
Lo[illegible] Subd. Bantug
Min Bid Price 140,000.00
WITHDRAWN

SAN AGUSTIN

LOT 40 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,826.00 sqm.
Floor Area. 110.00 sqm.
Lot 2-A & Lot 2-B-2 Along Provincial Road, Masaya Sur
Min Bid Price 620,000.00

SAN ISIDRO

LOT 41 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 1,000.00 sqm.
Lot 29 Victoria (Now Dona Paulina)
Min Bid Price : 128,000.00

LOT 42 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 1,000.00 sqm.
Lot 5 Victoria (Now Dona Paulina)
Min Bid Price 128,000.00

SAN MANUEL

LOT 43 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 20,000.00 sqm.
Lot 3342-B, Brgy Eden
Min Bid Price : 385,000.00

LOT 44 - AGRILAND
Lot Area. 324.00 sqm.
Lot 7,Blk 4 Dist 3
Min Bid Price 165,000.00

LOT 45 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 178.00 sqm.
Lot 26 Blk 2, Dist. 3
Min Bid Price : 76,000.00

LOT 46 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 175.00 sqm.
Lot 27 Blk 2, Dist. 3
Min Bid Price 105,000.00

SAN MATEO

LOT 47 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 290.00 sqm.
Floor Area 56.00 sqm.
Lot 5455-B National Road, Marasat Pequeño
Min Bid Price 555,000.00

SANTIAGO

LOT 48 - VACANT
Lot Area. 1,349.00 sqm.
Lot 482-F-4, Mabini
Min Bid Price : 1,890,000.00

LOT 49 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 300.00 sqm.
Lot 752-E-6-A Patul
Min Bid Price . 360,000.00

LOT 50 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area. 300.00 sqm.
Lot 752-E-6-B Patul
Min Bid Price 360,000.00

STA. MARIA

LOT 51 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,084.00 sqm.
Floor Area 168.00 sqm.
Lot 257 District 1
Min Bid Price 495,000.00

TUMAUINI

LOT 52 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,057.00 sqm.
Floor Area 202.00 sqm.
Lot 1545 Nat'L Rd Barrio Ungaling
Min Bid Price 2,700,000.00

LOT 53 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 249.00 sqm.
Lot 1860-B, Pascaran, District II
Min Bid Price : 101,000.00

LOT 54 - VACANT
Lot Area: 1,968.00 sqm.
Lot 2663 Nat'L Rd. Brgy. Lanna
Min Bid Price 476,000.00

LOT 55 - VACANT
Lot Area 222.00 sqm.
Lot 2412-C San Pedro
Min Bid Price : 114,000.00

ADDITIONAL PROPERTIES

LOT 56 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 2,263.00 [illegible]
F[illegible]
L[illegible] Prov'l Rd. Brgy Kalabaza, Aurora,
Min Bid Price 1,535,000.00
WITHDRAWN

LOT 57 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area. 1,102.50 sqm.
Lot 1-A Brgy. San Ramon, Aurora
Min Bid Price : 365,000.00

LOT 58 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 319.75 sqm.
Lot 3508-H, Provincial Rd., Ballesteros, Aurora
Min Bid Price : 155,000.00

LOT 59 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 275.00 sqm.
Lot 2929-A, Prov'L Rd., Sta. Rosa, Aurora
Min Bid Price : 785,000.00

LOT 60 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 346.66 sqm.
Floor Area: 207.00 sqm.
Lot 20234-C, Caliguran, Burgos
Min Bid Price : 540,000.00

LOT 61 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 70,044.00 sqm.
Lot 4479 Brgy. Rd, Raniag, Burgos
Min Bid Price : 370,000.00

LOT 62 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 1,643.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 148.00 sqm.
Lot 166-C, Brgy. Muñoz East, Roxas,
Min Bid Price 675,000.00

LOT 63 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 1,032.00 sqm.
Floor A[illegible]
Lo[illegible] 3 Nat'L Rd., Brgy Bantug (Formerly Vira), Roxas
Min Bid Price : 4,890,000.00
WITHDRAWN

LOT 64 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 9,030.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 179.00 sqm.
Lot 3886-A,B,D &F, Provincial Rd., Basilio, Roxas
Min Bid Price : 2,315,000.00

LOT 65 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 240.00 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk 11, Vira(Now Bantug), Roxas
Min Bid Price : 135,000.00

LOT 66 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 376.00 sqm.
Lo[illegible] & G De[illegible] Sts., Vira, Roxas
Min Bid Price . 895,000.00
WITHDRAWN

LOT 67 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 2,163.00 sqm.
Floor Area 76.00 sqm.
Lot 4-H, Brgy. Cabantan, San Manuel
Min Bid Price : 1,085,000.00

LOT 68 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 451.00 sqm.
Lot 11039-H, Calaocan(Now Brgy 1), San Mateo
Min Bid Price 1,805,000.00

LOT 69 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 451.00 sqm.
Lot 11039-G, Calaocan(Now Brgy 1), San Mateo
Min Bid Price : 1,805,000.00

LOT 70 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area. 2,451.00 sqm.
Floor Area 160.00 sqm.
Lots 4-K & 4-L Brgy. Rd. Cabantan, San Miguel
Min Bid Price . 835,000.00

CAUAYAN CITY

LOT71 - VACANT LOT
LA: 6,365.00 sqm.
Lot 1-B, Tagaran
Min Bid Price : 1,571,250.00

LOT72 - VACANT LOT
LA. 500.00 sqm.
Lot A-3, San Fermin
Min Bid Price 46,000.00

SANTIAGO CITY

LOT73 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 29, Blk 5, Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price . 130,000.00

LOT74 - VACANT LOT
LA. 180.00 sqm.
Lot 15, Blk 3, Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 138,000.00

LOT75 - VACANT LOT
LA. 180.00 sqm.
Lot 1, Blk 4, Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price . 138,000.00

LOT76 - VACANT LOT
LA: 180.00 sqm.
Lot 2, Blk 4, Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price 138,000.00

LOT77 - VACANT LOT
LA: 180.00 sqm.
Lot 3, Blk 4, Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 138,000.00

LOT78 - VACANT LOT
LA: 180.00 sqm.
Lot 4, Blk 4, Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price 138,000.00

LOT79 - VACANT LOT
LA: 180.00 sqm.
Lot 5, Blk 4, Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 138,000.00

LOT80 - VACANT LOT
LA: 180.00 sqm.
Lot 6, Blk 4, Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 138,000.00

LOT81 - VACANT LOT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 1, Blk 5, Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT82 - VACANT LOT
LA: 167.00 sqm.
Lot 2, Blk 5, Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price . 130,000.00

LOT83 - VACANT LOT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 30, Blk 5, Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price 130,000.00

LOT84 - VACANT LOT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 1, Blk 6, Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price . 130,000.00

LOT85 - VACANT LOT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 2, Blk 6, Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT86 - VACANT LOT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 29, Blk 6, Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price . 130,000.00

LOT87 - VACANT LOT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 30, Blk 6, Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price . 130,000.00

LOT88 - VACANT LOT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 1, Blk 7, Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT89 - VACANT LOT
LA. 168.00 sqm.
Lot 2, Blk 7, Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price . 130,000.00

LOT90 - VACANT LOT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 3, Blk 7, Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT91 - VACANT LOT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 4, Blk 7, Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT92 - VACANT LOT
LA: 224.00 sqm.
Lot 5, Blk 8, Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 175,000.00

LOT93 - VACANT LOT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 7, Blk 8, Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT94 - VACANT LOT
LA. 168.00 sqm.
Lot 9, Blk 8, Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT95 - VACANT LOT
LA. 215.00 sqm.
Lot 12, Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price . 170,000.00

LOT96 - VACANT LOT
LA. 184.00 sqm.
Lot 13, Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price . 145,000.00

LOT97 - VACANT LOT
LA. 180.00 sqm.
Lot 14, Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price . 142,000.00

LOT98 - VACANT LOT
LA: 175.00 sqm.
Lot 15, Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 135,000.00

LOT99 - VACANT LOT
LA: 172.00 sqm.
Lot 16, Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 135,000.00

LOT100 - VACANT LOT
LA. 219.00 sqm.
Lot 17, Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price 175,000.00

LOT101 - VACANT LOT
LA: 186.00 sqm.
Lot 1, Blk 10 Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price . 145,000.00

LOT102 - VACANT LOT
LA. 174.00 sqm.
Lot 1, Blk 11 Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price 135,000.00

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Coffee council formed in Sagada to promote, protect coffee trade

SAGADA, MT. PROVINCE—THIS TOURIST TOWN'S COFFEE growers have formed a coffee council to enhance and protect the local industry.

Thomas Killip, presidential adviser for Cordillera affairs, says one of the council's priorities is the establishment of a cooperative to prepare the local farmers for their entry into a bigger market.

The council is composed of representatives from the local government, church, private sector and farmers.

Killip, a former Sagada mayor, says Spanish soldiers introduced coffee growing in the town in the 1890s. The first coffee orchards that cultivated the arabica variety were put up in the village of Batalao.

"Although [coffee is] grown in backyards, it is possible to earn big. This has been proven in coffee producing countries such as Colombia. We do not have big plantations but we have orchards," Killip says.

Killip says the council will help local coffee growers avoid the problems that hit the vegetable industry in the Cordillera, which, at some point, was put at the mercy of middlemen and big businessmen.

"We saw the need to organize the local coffee council [to empower the] people. We are trying to organize [growers] in areas that have taken an interest in raising coffee on a commercial scale to give them strength to deal with big business," he says.

He says the council hopes to organize cooperatives in the province and in other parts of the Cordillera.

"If this happens, we will [be better able to help farmers to] have a fair share in profits," Killip says.

He adds that the council will protect the community's interest in the business and ensure the quality of homegrown coffee to be delivered to the market.

The council, he says, will likewise hold skills training on coffee growing and processing for farmers.

Killip says the group was inspired to put up a Sagada coffee council by the example of the cooperatives of coffee farmers in Colombia.

These cooperatives helped their communities through the implementation of various infrastructure projects that are funded by earnings from the cooperatives.

"In Colombia, it is through coffee that they were able to build hospitals and school buildings. [The cooperatives] also raised scholarship funds," Killip explains.

"This is an industry which is pro-ecology and environment as it enhances the use of organic materials. [Coffee growing] would supplement [income from] the [town's] existing crops like vegetables and rice," he says.

Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Pangasinan village cashes in on corn snack

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

GLORIA Viniegas tending her chichacorn stall during the recent Pista'y Dayat trade fair in Pangasinan.
YOLANDA SOTELO-FUERTES

BINALONAN, PANgasinan—You can call Moreno a "corny" village because this barangay is gaining a reputation for producing flavorful chichacorn (corn snack) made from corn grown in its fields.

The village owes its blossoming industry to a couple who started with "piso-piso" (retailed for a peso) chichacorn, also known a "cornik," in the early 1990s when Gloria Viniegas returned home after two years of working as a maid in Hong Kong.

Viniegas, 41, says that even while she was in Hong Kong, she and her husband, Ruperto, already agreed that they would start a chichacorn business.

"We were making chichacorn even before I went abroad, but on a very limited scale," Viniegas says.

The income was not enough, so she went abroad to earn more for the family's growing needs.

She saved enough money during her two-year stay in Hong Kong. When she went home, she bought cooking utensils and materials to start her chichacorn business.

Then she and Ruperto started cooking their way to a successful venture.

The business belonged to the so-called underground economy for years and the product was dubbed "chichacorn na labos (naked chichacorn)" because it had no brand name.

It was only when the couple availed themselves of a loan in October last year from the Pangasinan provincial government that the business was registered with the Department of Trade and Industry and they adopted the name "Krispee K."

The provincial government offers soft-term loans for small enterprises in the province under Gov. Victor Agbayani's Integrated Small Business Development Program. The program develops small and medium enterprises to accelerate economic growth in Pangasinan.

"Krispee K" is one of the provincial government-assisted enterprises that showcased their products at the recent Pista'y Dayat trade fair.

The Viniegas couple's village has carved a name for itself in the chichacorn business due to the couple's enterprising spirit.

Four producers of the corn snack are based in the village.

But Viniegas says corn production in the village is no longer enough to supply the need of the industry so they buy some of their ingredients from traders in other towns.

She says "Krispee K" chichacorn is being distributed to outlets in Baguio City, Divisoria in Manila and in nearby provinces.

Viniegas adds that some Chinese businessmen buy their products in bulk and repack the chichacorn themselves.

While she oversees the distribution, Ruperto tills a cousin's land and plants it with corn used in their business.

But Viniegas laments that while "Krispee K" has found a market, many customers still equate the best chichacorn with the Ilocos provinces.

"They would ask, 'Did this come from Vigan or Ilocos?' I would tell them that it's from Binalonan, Pangasinan. I want them to know that our village produces delicious chichacorn," she says.

With the success of "Krispee K," she says they have managed to expand the business from a "small pot, small frying pan" venture into a business employing about 10 workers and a product line that now includes banana chips and salted peanuts.

Ampalaya...

From page B2

Herbcare, chaired by Daniel's father Lito Abelarde, did not find it difficult to grow the business. In 2000, a year after the family ventured into the production and marketing of Charantia, Herbcare began exporting the product abroad.

Its ampalaya comes from a family-owned farm in Los Baños, Laguna, and Charantia comes in the form of capsules, tea bags and loose tea, which are all marketable, he adds.

The first foreign markets were the United States, Korea and Germany. Herbcare is now preparing to go to Japan and middle-eastern countries like the United Arab Emirates.

"The rest of the world is much bigger than the Philippines, and we believe we have just hit the tip of the iceberg in terms of tapping export markets," he says.

Herbcare notes that there are over 300,000 diabetics in New York City alone. The increasing cases of diabetes in the United States and other foreign countries gave the Abelardes a reason to be more aggressive in searching for more markets.

Daniel says one of Herbcare's visions is to make the term "ampalaya" known and identified worldwide as a Filipino word for a vegetable that is good for providing remedy for diabetes.

He adds that while there are other ampalaya-based products sold abroad, the Philippines, particularly Herbcare, is the first to market ampalaya as a food supplement for diabetics.

The World Health Organization has predicted that between 1995 and 2025, the worldwide prevalence of diabetes among people aged 20 years and older will increase from 4 to 5.4 percent.

Daniel says what's good about being in the business was not only seeing profits grow but also knowing how Charantia is able to help people survive diabetes.

Part of the company's marketing strategy is to help diabetics form clubs, through which members are educated on health maintenance.

Herbcare taps doctors to provide the lectures, and ties up with municipal and city governments in organizing blood sugar check-ups for community members.

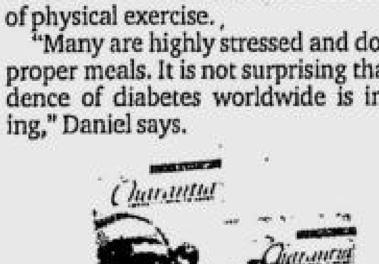
"We don't just sell the product and that's it. We get involved with our customers," he says.

Daniel stresses the importance of educating people about diabetes, which is described as a "silent killer."

He notes that studies have shown that an individual does not die of diabetes per se, but of the complications resulting from it.

Diabetes largely results from an unbalanced diet combined with stress and lack of physical exercise.

"Many are highly stressed and don't eat proper meals. It is not surprising that incidence of diabetes worldwide is increasing," Daniel says.



PNB
ASSET MANAGEMENT SECTOR
We manage for best value.

PUBLIC AUCTION

JULY 13, 2006 • THURSDAY • 2:00 PM • EAST ASIA ROYALE HOTEL, National Hway Lagao, Gen. Santos City, South Cotabato

ANTIPAS
LOT 1 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 42,861 sqm.
Lot 349 Homestead Road, Sitio Malasio, Brgy. Malatab
Minimum Bid Price 225,000.00

KABACAN
LOT 2 - AGRILAND
L.A. 79,547 sqm.
Lot 8 875 Brgy. Pisan
Minimum Bid Price 239,000.00

KIDAPAWAN
LOT 3 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 750 sqm.
Lots 3 & 4, Block 2 Pascual Subd. Singao
Minimum Bid Price 390,000.00

LOT 4 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 88 sqm. F.A. 88 sqm.
Lot 2953-A-2 #150 Quezon Blvd.
Minimum Bid Price 390,000.00

LOT 5 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 148 sqm. F.A. 108 sqm.
Lot 10-A-14-B Lumagdang Subd.
Minimum Bid Price 390,000.00

LOT 6 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 873 sqm. F.A. 103 sqm.
Lot No. 3323 M. Cuenco St
Minimum Bid Price 365,000.00

LOT 7 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 300 sqm. F.A. 108 sqm.
Lot 10-B-4-D-1-W Angie Subd.
Minimum Bid Price 310,000.00

LOT 8 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 532 sqm.
Lot 10-B-1-I-10-E-6-A Mundog Subd.
Minimum Bid Price 239,000.00

LOT 9 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 2,887 sqm.
Lot 2-S Guava & Langaka Sts Madrid Subd., Pob.
Minimum Bid Price 7,150,000.00

LOT 10 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 1,470 sqm.
Lots 2-R-3-G, 2-R-3-H & 2-R-3-I Anahaw St., Pob
Minimum Bid Price 4,520,000.00

LOT 11 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 488 sqm.
Lot 2-P-2 Anahaw St. Pob
Minimum Bid Price 1,505,000.00

MAGPET
LOT 12 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 375 sqm. F.A. 74 sqm.
Lot 414+B-1-A-8 Saniel Subd.
Minimum Bid Price 158,000.00

LOT 13 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 284 sqm. F.A. 107 sqm.
Lot 8, Blk 8 Matas St.
Minimum Bid Price 80,000.00

MAKILALA
LOT 14 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 360 sqm. F.A. 76 sqm.
Lot 4-P-6 Gasalan Subd., Purok 8, Pob
Minimum Bid Price 350,000.00

MATALAM
LOT 15 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 51,371 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 2, National Highway, Brgy. Manubuan Matalam North
Minimum Bid Price 1,530,000.00

M'LANG
WITHDRAWN
Minimum Bid Price 295,000.00

LOT 17 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 1,423 sqm. F.A. 78 sqm.
Lot 10097-A Bandiola Subd., Brgy. Ines
Minimum Bid Price 623,000.00

TULUNAN
WITHDRAWN
Minimum Bid Price 235,000.00

LOT 19 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 819 sqm. F.A. 147 sqm.
Lot 2926 Pob
Minimum Bid Price 405,000.00

LOT 20 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. 1,227 sqm.
Lot 3300, Lot 3301 Magsaysay And Burgos Sts. Pob
Minimum Bid Price 464,000.00

MAASIM
LOT 21 - LOT W/ IMPRVTS
L.A. 327 sqm. F.A. 38 sqm.
Lot 1-H Municipal Circuit Rd Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 98,000.00

GENERAL SANTOS
LOT 22 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 4,874 sqm
Lot 3-B Silway-Maker Road, Labangal
Minimum Bid Price 6,129,000.00

LOT 23 - LOT W/ IMPRVTS
L.A. 600 sqm. F.A. 126 sqm.
Lot 10 Blk. 30 Purok San Vicente, Espina Subd., Labangal
Minimum Bid Price 450,000.00

LOT 24 - LOT W/ IMPRVTS
L.A. 9,904 sqm. F.A. 157 sqm
Lot 826-A-1 Atong Gumio St Brgy. San Isidro
Minimum Bid Price 3,690,000.00

LOT 25 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 14,170 sqm.
Lot A-2 1St Barrio, San Isidro
Minimum Bid Price 1,985,000.00

LOT 26 - LOT W/ IMPRVTS
L.A. 4,526 sqm.
Lot 2 Purok 2 Buayan
Minimum Bid Price 710,000.00

LOT 27 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
WITHDRAWN
Minimum Bid Price 1,730,000.00

LOT 28 - LOT W/ IMPRVTS
L.A. 540 sqm. F.A. 201 sqm.
Lot 12 Blk 1, Dbp Compound, Lagao
Minimum Bid Price 1,280,000.00

LOT 29 - LOT W/ IMPRVTS
L.A. 277 sqm. F.A. 53 sqm.
Lot 893-B-4-B-7-B-7-E Morales Subd., City Heights
Minimum Bid Price 240,000.00

LOT 30 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 456 sqm. F.A. 218 sqm
Lot No. 5030 Camacho St
Minimum Bid Price 1,565,000.00

LOT 31 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 191 sqm.
Lot 4-A Sta. Cruz And San Juan Sts
Minimum Bid Price 210,000.00

LOT 32 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 8,898 sqm.
Lot H Purok 2 Buayan
Minimum Bid Price 580,000.00

LOT 33 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 476 sqm.
Lot 4092 Cagampang Street General Santos City
Minimum Bid Price 2,860,000.00

LOT 34 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 1,505 sqm.
Lot A-3-E Rivas Subd Brgy. Calumpang
Minimum Bid Price 385,200.00

LOT 35 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 19,973 sqm
Lot 750-B Kinan Rd. Brgy. Mabuhay
Minimum Bid Price 1,840,000.00

LOT 36 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 19,874 sqm.
Lot 750-E Kinan Rd Brgy Mabuhay
Minimum Bid Price 1,840,000.00

LOT 37 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 10,000 sqm.
Lot 1-B-9 Brgy. Tambler
Minimum Bid Price 6,000,000.00

LOT 38 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 3,979 sqm.
Lot 20-D Baniad Subd., Tambler
Minimum Bid Price 1,375,000.00

LOT 39 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 6,788 sqm.
Lot 25-A Fronting Lot 39 Brgy. Fatima, Tambler
Minimum Bid Price 2,175,000.00

LOT 40 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 461 sqm.
Lot 21-I-5-E Baniad Subd., Tambler
Minimum Bid Price 170,000.00

LOT 41 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 10,000 sqm.
Lot 20-B Baniad Subd. Tambler
Minimum Bid Price 3,200,000.00

LOT 42 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 8,461 sqm.
Lot 19-C-2-C-1 Baniad Subd Tambler
Minimum Bid Price 2,448,000.00

LOT 43 - VACANT LOT
WITHDRAWN
Minimum Bid Price 4,230,000.00

LOT 44 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 476 sqm.
Lot 4092 Cagampang St.
Minimum Bid Price 2,860,000.00

LOT 45 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 23,331 sqm.
Lot 28-B 2-D Brgy. Tambler
Minimum Bid Price 4,288,000.00

POLOMOLOK
LOT 46 - LOT W/ IMPRVTS
L.A. 388 sqm. F.A. 185 sqm
Lot 4 Blk 6 Cannery Housing Subd
Minimum Bid Price 770,000.00

LOT 47 - LOT W/ IMPRVTS
L.A. 300 sqm. F.A. 42 sqm.
Lot 6-Z-9-C-4-A-5 Rañadasubd.
Minimum Bid Price 105,000.00

LOT 48 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 300 sqm
Lot 13 Blk 2 Sanchez Subd
Minimum Bid Price 120,000.00

LOT 49 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 300 sqm.
Lot 9 Blk. 2 Sanchez Subd
Minimum Bid Price 120,000.00

LOT 50 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 300 sqm.
Lot 16 Blk 2 Sanchez Subd
Minimum Bid Price 120,000.00

STO. NIÑO
LOT 51 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 309 sqm. F.A. 157 sqm.
Lot 1382-B-8-K-1 Calanza Subd Pob.
Minimum Bid Price 290,000.00

LOT 52 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 202 sqm.
Lot 10 Blk 2 Eborde Subd., Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 50,000.00

LOT 53 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 202 sqm
Lot 11 Blk 2 Eborde Subd. Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 50,000.00

LOT 54 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 201 sqm.
Lot 17 Blk 2 Eborde Subd Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 50,000.00

LOT 55 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 201 sqm.
Lot 9 Blk 2 Eborde Subd., Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 50,000.00

LOT 56 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 200 sqm.
Lot 1383-G-4 Eborde Subd
Minimum Bid Price 50,000.00

LOT 57 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 974 sqm.
Lot 1383-E-5 Eborde Subd.
Minimum Bid Price 150,000.00

LOT 58 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 200 sqm
Lot 1383-G-5 Eborde Subd
Minimum Bid Price 50,000.00

LOT 59 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 200 sqm.
Lot 1383-G-3 Eborde Subd
Minimum Bid Price 50,000.00

LOT 60 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 200 sqm
Lot 1383-G-1 Eborde Subd
Minimum Bid Price 50,000.00

LOT 61 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 200 sqm.
Lot 1383-G-2 Eborde Subd
Minimum Bid Price 50,000.00

LOT 62 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 400 sqm
Lot 1383-G-6 Eborde Subd
Minimum Bid Price 100,000.00

LOT 63 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 200 sqm. F.A. sqm.
Lot 11 Blk 3 Eborde Subd. Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 50,000.00

LOT 64 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 201 sqm. F.A. sqm.
Lot 5 Blk 3 Eborde Subd Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 50,000.00

LOT 65 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 201 sqm. F.A. sqm.
Lot 9 Blk 3 Eborde Subd Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 50,000.00

LOT 66 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 191 sqm. F.A. sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 6 Eborde Subd Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 50,000.00

LOT 67 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 380 sqm.
Lot 1322-B-11-J-4-E Parian Subd. Pob
Minimum Bid Price 110,000.00

LOT 68 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 300 sqm. F.A. 300 sqm.
Lot No. 1320-I Poblacion Sto Niño, South
Minimum Bid Price 240,000.00

TUPI
LOT 69 - LOT W/ IMPRVTS
L.A. 520 sqm. F.A. 130 sqm.
Lot 78 Nat'L Highway, Purok 13 Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 765,000.00

ISULAN
LOT 70 - LOT W/ IMPRVTS
L.A. 1200 sqm. F.A. 59 sqm.
Lot 580-B-1-B & 580-B-1-C, Sultan Kudarat
Minimum Bid Price 490,000.00

LOT 71 - LOT W/ IMPRVTS
L.A. 700 sqm. F.A. 102 sqm
Lot 6216 Sultan Kudarat
Minimum Bid Price 1,365,000.00

LOT 72 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 3,331 sqm.
Lot 1877-B Kalawag I Ext. Sultan Kudarat
Minimum Bid Price 440,000.00

LOT 73 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 1,491 sqm.
643 Kalawag I Sultan Kudarat
Minimum Bid Price 635,000.00

LOT 74 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 600 sqm.
321-B-2-B-1-H-3 Kalawag I Sultan Kudarat
Minimum Bid Price 155,000.00

LOT 75 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 293 sqm.
Lot 452-C-6-C, Brgy. Sampao, Sultan Kudarat
Minimum Bid Price 75,000.00

LOT 76 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 440 sqm.
Lot 262-A-2-E, Purok Capitol East, Brgy Sampao, Sultan Kudarat
Minimum Bid Price 150,000.00

LOT 77 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 1,052 sqm.
3-F-4 & 3-G-1 Nat'L Hi-Way Poblacion Sultan Kudarat
Minimum Bid Price 5,050,000.00

PRES. QUIRINO
LOT 78 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 1,260 sqm.
Lot 763-B-16, Lot 763-B-15, Lot 763-B-14 Purok Caprer Pob Sultan Kudarat
Minimum Bid Price 1,555,000.00

LOT 79 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 751 sqm.
Lot 763-B-24 Poblacion, Sultan Kudarat
Minimum Bid Price 240,000.00

TACURONG
LOT 80 - LOT W/ IMPRVTS
L.A. 388 sqm. F.A. 84 sqm
Lot 6744-F-4, San Pablo Sultan Kudarat
Minimum Bid Price 320,000.00

LOT 81 - LOT W/ IMPRVTS
L.A. 5,000 sqm. F.A. 420 sqm.
Lot 500-A-1 Buenaflor Sultan Kudarat
Minimum Bid Price 5,375,000.00

LOT 82 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 592 sqm. F.A. 67 sqm.
Lot 500-A-1-F, Buenaflor Subd
Minimum Bid Price 280,000.00

LOT 83 - LOT W/ IMPRVTS
L.A. 375 sqm. F.A. 75 sqm.
Lot 619-J-7-F-2, Purok Sampaguita, New Isabela
Minimum Bid Price 330,000.00

LOT 84 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
WITHDRAWN
1,755,000.00

LOT 85 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 2159 sqm.
Lot 26/27/28 Brgy. Katungal
Minimum Bid Price 435,000.00

ADDITIONAL PROPERTIES

ANTIPAS
LOT 86 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA 286.00 sqm.
FA 118.00 sqm.
Lot 714-L, M L Quezon St. Pob
Minimum Bid Price 553,000.00

LOT 87 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA 668.00 sqm
Lot 715-B-1 M L Quezon St. Pob
Minimum Bid Price 233,000.00

LOT 88 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
LA 304.00 sqm.
Lot 4 Blk 11 J P Laurel St. Pob
Minimum Bid Price 39,000.00

ARAKAN
LOT 89 - AGRICULTURAL LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
LA 3499+45091+1000 = 49590 sqm.
Lot 196-A, 196-B, 196-C Brgy. Badiangon
Minimum Bid Price 226,000.00

CARMEN
LOT 90 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA. 1,200.00 sqm.
FA 92.00 sqm.
Lot 2129, Cor. Acacia-Guava-Santos Sts. Pob
Minimum Bid Price 244,000.00

LOT 91 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA. 1,199.00 sqm.
FA 138.00 sqm.
Lot 1974, Cor. Rambutan & Leoncio Sts. Pob
Minimum Bid Price 488,000.00

LOT 92 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA 600.00 sqm.
FA 131.00 sqm.
Lot 2214-B Cor. Sampaguita & Dahlia Sts. Pob.
Minimum Bid Price 449,000.00

LOT 93 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA 600.00 sqm.
FA 53.00 sqm.
Lot 1956-B Pob
Minimum Bid Price 288,000.00

LOT 94 - VACANT LOT
LA 1,200.00 sqm
Lot 1540 Purok 2, Pob
Minimum Bid Price 102,000.00

KABACAN
LOT 95 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA 233.00 sqm
FA 392.00 sqm
Lot 713-L-4-F-1-B & 1-B-11, Blk 3 Usm Avenue
Minimum Bid Price 1,665,000.00

LOT 96 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
LA 887.00 sqm
Lot 754-B-15-Mm. Malvar St. Pob
Minimum Bid Price 1,045,000.00

LOT 97 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA 599.00 sqm
FA 160.00 sqm
Lot 2058-A Nat'L Highway Katidtuan
Minimum Bid Price 482,000.00

KIDAPAWAN
LOT 98 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA 850.00 sqm.
FA 157.00 sqm
Lot 54-A-5 Subd Road Hare' Subd., Brgy Lanao
Minimum Bid Price 462,000.00

LOT 99 - VACANT
LA 494.00 sqm
Lot 3067-B Tomas Claudio St
Minimum Bid Price 310,000.00

MAKILALA
LOT 100 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA 600.00 sqm.
FA 158.00 sqm.
Lot 20 B-1-C Dapen Subd. Brgy. Saguing
Minimum Bid Price 266,000.00

MATALAM
LOT 101 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
LA 1,200.00 sqm.
Lot 57-E-2-B-2 Pob
Minimum Bid Price 117,000.00

LOT 102 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA 306.00 sqm.
FA 370.00 sqm
Lot 58-B-10 Pob
Minimum Bid Price 899,000.00

LOT 103 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA 532.00 sqm.
FA 232.00 sqm.
Lot 55 J National Highway Pob
Minimum Bid Price 304,000.00

M'LAND
LOT 104 - AGRILAND
LA 33,414.00 sqm.
Lot 1534-A Dungo-An
Minimum Bid Price 225,000.00

LOT 105 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA 400.00 sqm
FA 305.00 sqm
Lot 10099-I-7-I-8 Juson Subd Brgy. Ines
Minimum Bid Price 778,000.00

LOT 106 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA 6,092.00 sqm.
FA 1,717.00 sqm.
Lot 2547-E Bagontapay
Minimum Bid Price 2,567,000.00

LOT 107 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA 360.00 sqm.
FA 134.00 sqm.
Lot 2626-C Brgy. Road Public Market Bagontapay
Minimum Bid Price : 217,000.00

LOT 108 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
WITHDRAWN
Minimum Bid Price 817,000.00

PIKIT
LOT 109 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
LA 848.00 sqm
Lot 939 Brgy. Batulawan
Minimum Bid Price 77,000.00

LOT 110 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
LA 922.00 sqm.
Lot 950 Brgy. Batulawan
Minimum Bid Price 69,000.00

LOT 111 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA. 773.00 sqm.
FA 300.00 sqm.
Lot 74 Lapu-Lapu St., Pob
Minimum Bid Price 483,000.00

LOT 112 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
WITHDRAWN
Minimum Bid Price 318,750.00

PRES. ROXAS
IMPROVEMENT
WITHDRAWN
Minimum Bid Price 294,000.00

TULUGAN
LOT 114 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
LA 100,332.00 sqm.
Lot 297 La Esperanza
Minimum Bid Price 875,000.00

GENERAL SANTOS
LA 357.75 sqm
WITHDRAWN
Minimum Bid Price 407,000.00

LOT 116 - VACANT
LA 8,789.00 sqm
WITHDRAWN
Minimum Bid Price 2,173,000.00

LOT 117 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA 585.00 sqm.
FA 306.00 sqm.
Lot 11 Block 4 Road Lot Mateo Subdivision Mateo Road, Lagao
Minimum Bid Price 1,173,000.00

LOT 118 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA 585.00 sqm.
FA 236.00 sqm.
Lot 14, Block 4 Road Lot (Alley) Mateo Subdivision, Mateo Road Lagao
Minimum Bid Price 969,000.00

LOT 119 - VACANT LOT
LA 254 + 238 = 492.00 sqm.
Lot 2 & Lot 4 Blk 1 Subd. Road Lanzang Village, Phase I, Lagao
Minimum Bid Price 138,000.00

LOT 120 - AGRILAND
WITHDRAWN
Minimum Bid Price 1,838,000.00

LOT 121 - AGRILAND
LA 19,973.00 sqm
WITHDRAWN
Minimum Bid Price 1,838,000.00

LOT 122 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA 9,584.00 sqm
WITHDRAWN
Minimum Bid Price 3,425,000.00

LOT 123 - VACANT
WITHDRAWN
Minimum Bid Price 3,200,000.00

LOT 124 - VACANT
WITHDRAWN
Minimum Bid Price 1,274,000.00

LOT 125 - VACANT
WITHDRAWN
Minimum Bid Price 3,437,000.00

LOT 126 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA 352.00 sqm.
FA 204.00 sqm
Lot 894-F-5-D Orange Subd. City Heights
Minimum Bid Price : 413,000.00

LOT 127 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
LA 305.00 sqm.
Lot 879 B 2 A 7 Subd. Road Lot 1
Zaldivar Subd., City Heights
Minimum Bid Price 196,231.00

POLOMOLOK
LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA 300.00 sqm.
FA 42.00 sqm.
Lot 4 Blk 1 Tuazon Subd
Minimum Bid Price 207,000.00

LOT 129 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA. 300.00 sqm.
FA 42.00 sqm.
Lot 6-2-9-C-4-A-5 Subd. Road Ranada Subd
Minimum Bid Price 105,000.00

STO. NIÑO
LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA 587.00 sqm.
FA 250.00 sqm.
Lot 1322 B-11-J-4-H-4 Farm Road Parian Subd., Pob
Minimum Bid Price 416,000.00

SURALLAH
LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA 356.00 sqm.
FA 77.00 sqm.
Lot 43 Road Lot 73 Capurihan Subd. Pob
Minimum Bid Price 192,000.00

DIGOS
VACANT LOT
LA 200.00 sqm.
Lot 11 Blk 3 Ruparan
Minimum Bid Price 32,000.00

LOT 133 - VACANT LOT
LA 197.00 sqm.
Lot 14 Blk 3 Ruparan
Minimum Bid Price 32,000.00

LOT 134 - VACANT LOT
LA 200.00 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk 4 Ruparan
Minimum Bid Price 32,000.00

LOT 135 - VACANT LOT
LA 200.00 sqm
Lot 7 Blk 4 Ruparan
Minimum Bid Price 32,000.00

LOT 136 - VACANT LOT
LA 200.00 sqm
Lot 8 Blk 4 Ruparan
Minimum Bid Price 32,000.00

LOT 137 - VACANT LOT
LA 200.00 sqm
Lot 9 Blk 4 Ruparan
Minimum Bid Price 32,000.00

LOT 138 - VACANT LOT
LA 200.00 sqm.
Lot 11 Blk 4 Ruparan
Minimum Bid Price 32,000.00

LOT 139 - VACANT LOT
LA 200.00 sqm.
Lot 12 Blk 4 Ruparan
Minimum Bid Price 32,000.00

LOT 140 - VACANT LOT
LA 197.00 sqm.
Lot 13 Blk 4 Ruparan
Minimum Bid Price 32,000.00

LOT 141 - VACANT LOT
LA 197.00 sqm.
Lot 14 Blk 4 Ruparan
Minimum Bid Price 32,000.00

LOT 142 - VACANT LOT
LA 222.00 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk 5 Ruparan
Minimum Bid Price 36,000.00

LOT 143 - VACANT LOT
LA 210.00 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 5 Ruparan
Minimum Bid Price 34,000.00

LOT 144 - VACANT LOT
LA 210.00 sqm
Lot 3 Blk 5 Ruparan
Minimum Bid Price 34,000.00

LOT 145 - VACANT LOT
LA 222.00 sqm
Lot 4 Blk 5 Ruparan
Minimum Bid Price 36,000.00

LOT 146 - VACANT LOT
LA 195.00 sqm
Lot 13 Blk 6 Ruparan
Minimum Bid Price 31,000.00

LOT 147 - VACANT LOT
LA 198.00 sqm
Lot 17 Blk 7 Ruparan
Minimum Bid Price 32,000.00

LOT 148 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
LA 966.00 sqm.
FA 57.00 sqm.
Lot 12-G-9-E-1 Subd. Road, Cagape Subd. San Jose
Minimum Bid Price 981,000.00

LOT 149 - VACANT LOT
LA 4,940.00 sqm
Lot 12-G-9-F Subd. Road Cagape Subd. San Jose
Minimum Bid Price 1,976,000.00

LOT 150 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
LA 726.00 sqm.
FA 297.00 sqm.
L386 Del Pilar St
Minimum Bid Price 1,541,000.00

- GUARANTEED FINANCING-FIXED INTEREST UP TO 10YRS
- 10% DOWN PAYMENT FOR LOTS
- 25% DOWN PAYMENT FOR DEVELOPED PROPERTIES
- DEPOSIT PHP 25,000.00 CASH, MANAGER'S CHECK (NO DEPOSIT NO PARTICIPATION)
- FOR INSTALLMENT BUYERS PLS. BRING PROOF OF INCOME (ITR, CERT. OF EMPLOYMENT, BANK STATEMENT, ETC.)

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A FAMILY from Tinglayan, Kalinga crosses a terrace paddy planted with unoy.
PHOTOS BY EV ESPIRITU

A grain of Igorot rice for ₱100

Organic rice finds a market in US

POUNDING of unoy palay showcased in rice rituals.

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—THE GOVernment once offered to pay P100 for every grain of rice that farmers in Ifugao, Kalinga and Mt. Province would harvest from the centuries-old rice terraces.

The Department of Science and Technology's packaging experts sealed a sample terrace grain in a humidity-controlled plastic packet, which is attached to a key chain.

KINTOMAN palay on display

IGOROT woman balances 15 kilos of Kintoman palay on her head.

But the program did not take off because no one knew how to keep the grains fresh and well preserved beyond three months, says Juan Dait, former director of the defunct Ifugao Rice Terraces Commission, which supervised the preservation of the terraces.

The P100 for every grain program was just one of the ways by which the government hoped to keep the terraces alive, and cushion the effect of more young Cordillerans abandoning their family farms in favor of more lucrative careers here and abroad.

Juan Ngalob, Cordillera director of the National Economic and Development Authority, notes that the provinces that host the rice terraces are among the poorest in the country.

Dait says the rice culture of the terraces has to be preserved, not only because the terraces are unique to the Philippines, but also because the unique culture was what convinced the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) to put the terraces as the first "living treasures" on the World Heritage List.

There is hope that the rice planting tradition will continue, however, because of the renewed interest of the United States in the organic rice from the terraces.

DRYING Kintoman palay from Bontoc, Mountain Province

A firm headed by a Filipino activist and a former US Peace Corps volunteer have been exporting organic rice to the United States since 2005, finally opening a window of opportunity for the 30,000 metric tons of tinawon rice produced annually in Ifugao and the 140,000 metric tons of unoy rice from Kalinga.

Young Ilonggo earns from passion for cooking

By Hazel P. Villa
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—HE KNEW WHEN he baked his first cake at eight years old that he would end up in the food business.

By the time Miguel Jardeleza Cordova turned 21, he had opened his own restaurant with six tables at the ground floor of his family's house on No. 107 Castilla St. Jaro, turning his passion for cooking into one of Iloilo City's most popular eating places.

Today, the 25-year-old Miguel is on his sixth year behind Afrique's Restaurant, which has expanded into two branches that serve 200 to 500 customers a day.

The third of five siblings still can't believe that he has gone this far, considering that he only had P2,000 to start with. His first restaurant was beside a public market, and he had no feasibility study. All he had was belief and passion for his chosen craft.

"We became successful probably because we served the type of food we enjoyed eating at home. We offer sincere and honest service and we treat customers like family. It's the honesty of the work we put in," says Miguel.

But if you ask the customers, it's Miguel's rich and tasty carbonara and Sicilian pastas, the two original dishes Afrique's first served, that they keep coming back for.

The menu has since expanded to feature 19 pasta dishes, 19 types of gourmet pizza, 10 special meat and chicken dishes, five beef burgers and four kinds of salads, costing from a low of P80 to a high of P245.

PINOY ENTREPRENEUR

HAZEL P. VILLA

CORDOVA has no plans yet of changing the homey ambience of the original restaurant on No. 107 Castilla St., Jaro District.

Mom and pop pizzeria

Even the way the Afrique's is run takes after the Italian "mom and pop" pizzeria, with the entire Cordova family having a direct hand in operations. No one actually takes on the role of manager.

Miguel's mom, Louise, does the accounting and budgeting while his dad, Carlos Jr., does the purchasing.

While Miguel is in charge of recipe preparation and the kitchen, brother Wowie, and his wife Rachel, handle the restaurant's 42 staff. Another brother, Bembol, and his wife Marie, handle legal matters and paper work.

Younger sibling Gabriel, who just started college, delivers food or mans the cash register when the restaurants are short on staff. Youngest sister Isabel helps in the kitchen and mans the Jaro branch when her school schedule permits.

The current family business set-up is a great help to hardworking Miguel, considering that several months before he opened Afrique's in Jaro, he was finishing his thesis as a mass communications student majoring in broadcasting at West Visayas State University. He even got elected barangay councilor.

Strong family ties and memories seem to be the secret behind Afrique's success.

Aside from his Italian cooking skills learned from the Jardeleza side and the Pinoy comfort food from the Cordovas, Miguel looks back on the memory of his beloved late grandfather Rafael Jardeleza, whose nickname "Afric" Miguel changed into the restaurant name "Afrique," for that foreign-sounding and unique touch.

"When we were young, our environment revolved around business. The Jardelezas were into the meat business and as a child, I was already helping in the market, dealing with clients and buying cows to be butchered. I was also helping in a restaurant that my dad's family owned," says Miguel.

South Beach diet

Ever enterprising, Miguel has also marketed Afrique's other services like the South Beach Diet meals, with himself as a walking advertisement.

Longtime customers are awed at Miguel's present weight of 173 pounds. He used to weigh as much as 265 pounds before he went on the South Beach diet, which is high protein and low carb, prompting people to inquire about his "miracle."

Thus, aside from the Afrique's restaurants, Afrique's Catering Services, and the organizing of theme parties—Miguel has added South Beach Diet meals with free delivery to his clients, made up mostly of doctors and businessmen.

Though a little concerned about competition from other restaurants run by equally young and enterprising Ilonggos like him, Miguel faces up to the challenge by continually upgrading his skills with cooking lessons from some of Manila's finest chefs and traveling abroad at least twice a year to pick up ideas from other country's restaurants.

What else is up the sleeve of this young entrepreneur who describes himself as "a natural born cook"? A restaurant for Filipino comfort food—such as dinuguan, callos, pata, leche flan and halo-halo with halayang ube—to tentatively open in December this year, and in the near future—a cooking school for Ilonggos, a recipe book, and the selling of special bottled Afrique's sauces.

One can only wonder what Miguel will be up to when he turns 40.

MIGUEL Jardeleza Cordova, owner of Afrique's Restaurant, one of Iloilo City's most popular dining places.

AFRIQUE'S Carbonara pasta

PHOTOS BY ARNOLD ALMACEN
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IN THIS ISSUE
Sea Princess rides
Freedom of the Seas/C2

Sunday LIFESTYLE
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso
dback: Inquirer lif ne/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

Send in the clown

Don't be afraid to play the jester in the office

By Constantino C. Tejero

DO YOU EXPERIENCE a lot of stress at work? Do you have difficulty laughing at yourself? Do you find yourself frowning at people who act silly or joke around?

Those are grabber questions the Reintegration for Care and Wholeness Foundation Inc. (RCWFI) has put in its workshop flyer that anyone who reads it would find irresistible.

Because, of course, who hasn't experienced in the workplace such stressors as "pressured deadlines, difficult assignments, authoritarian bosses, lack of understanding among colleagues, unclear directions, stringent rules and regulations, unfair labor practice, even poor lighting and ventilation"?

As RCWFI points out, a progressive and competitive workplace puts a great deal of stress on executives, managers and employees. The side effects? Lack of drive or enthusiasm, unhealthy competition, dissatisfaction, ineffective communication, lack of teamwork.

Indeed, to be in a workplace is to be trapped in a stressful world. And as there's no way one could avoid it, one need only to develop stress hardiness, resiliency, and skills or strategies to relieve stress—one of which is humor. Experts say humor is "one of the most powerful means to release tension and overcome stress in any environment."

Believing that happier people generate better output, RCWFI has come out with the latest in its series of seminars and workshops, "Humor in the Workplace," to teach participants to "decompress and feel good about themselves so as to be able to develop a sense of humor, stress hardiness and resiliency which can generate vitality and dynamism in their home and work life."

Happy ex-nun

About 20 participants filled the room for the 9 a.m.-5 p.m. seminar-workshop recently conducted by the RCWFI team in Astoria Plaza at the Ortigas Business Center in Pasig City. Most were young corporate people, some businessmen, but there were also two nuns and a priest.

The resource person herself was a former nun, Harriet Hautea Hormillosa. From 1967 to 2001, Hormillosa was a Servants of St. Joseph sister who had also lived, worked and lectured in Rome, Spain, California and Guam.

Hers is a gentle humor, and she positively radiates an unmistakable spirituality. She it was who founded RCWFI, and she now serves as its president and program director.

RCWFI celebrated its sixth foundation anniversary on May 10, and would hold a grand reunion in the last quarter of the year. It has now nearly 50 trainers, counselors, facilitators, life coaches, both in-house and on-call.

It offers a healthy dose of programs and services, transformational courses on human relationships, life patterns, people skills, stress, time and energy management, metapersonal integration, growthful parenting, transition management, psycho-spiritual intensive process, winning attitudes.

For June, it conducted retreats on "Reparenting the Child Within" (basic personal integration course, to attain a solid sense of self) and "Shadow Power" (advance course in personal integration, to harness and transform one's hidden potentials).

Calling itself "The Caring Group," RCWFI has a partnership center at 59 C. Salvador St., Loyola Heights, Quezon City (with tel. 4361779; telefax 4360710 and 4266832; e-mail rcw_foundation@yahoo.com; or contact Edith Villanueva through 0917-7562042, or Mae Sotacio through 0919-2444503).

Happy workshoppers

As the humor workshop progressed, the participants started opening up, giving testimonials, playing parlor games, singing and dancing, laughing without reservation.

Soon they were sharing feel-good hugs (we didn't even know there were 13 of them: frame hug, bear hug, back-to-front hug, ankle hug, side-to-side hug, group hug, cheek hug, grabber-squeezer hug, "Guess who?" hug, sandwich hug, top-of-the-head hug, heart-centered hug, and custom-tailored hug).

Motherhood statements aside, the group basked in open camaraderie and applauded themselves for bringing out their natural humor long buried in their grouchy working selves. Why, even the nuns had been persuaded to let their hair down.

What Hormillosa actually advises people boils down to common sense: Just rely on your inner clown, okay? Because, of course, happiness is an inside job.

AFTER every RCW seminar, participants give vent to their natural exuberance.

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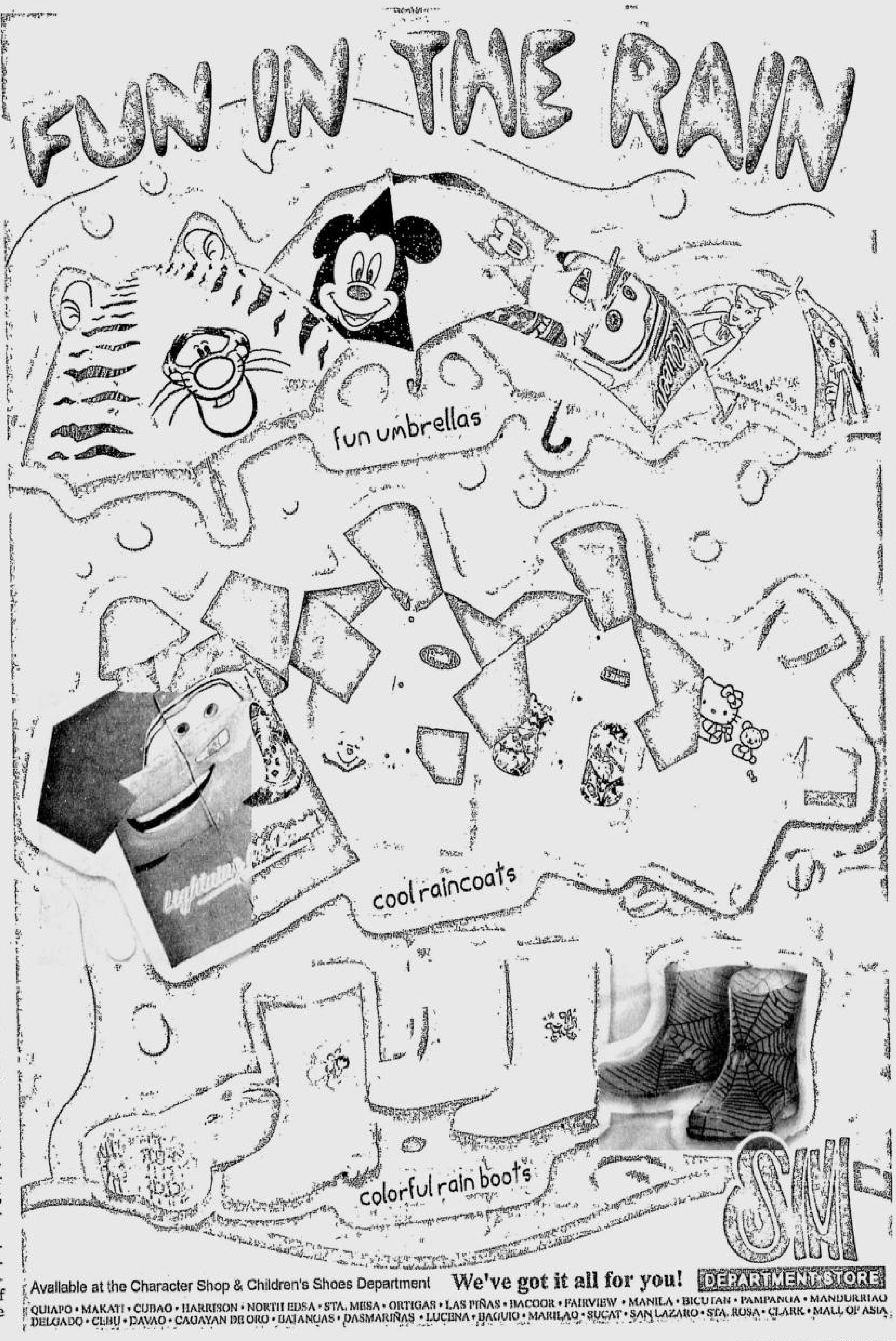

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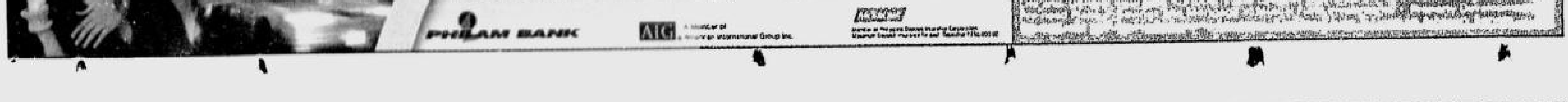
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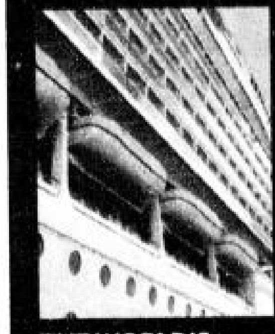
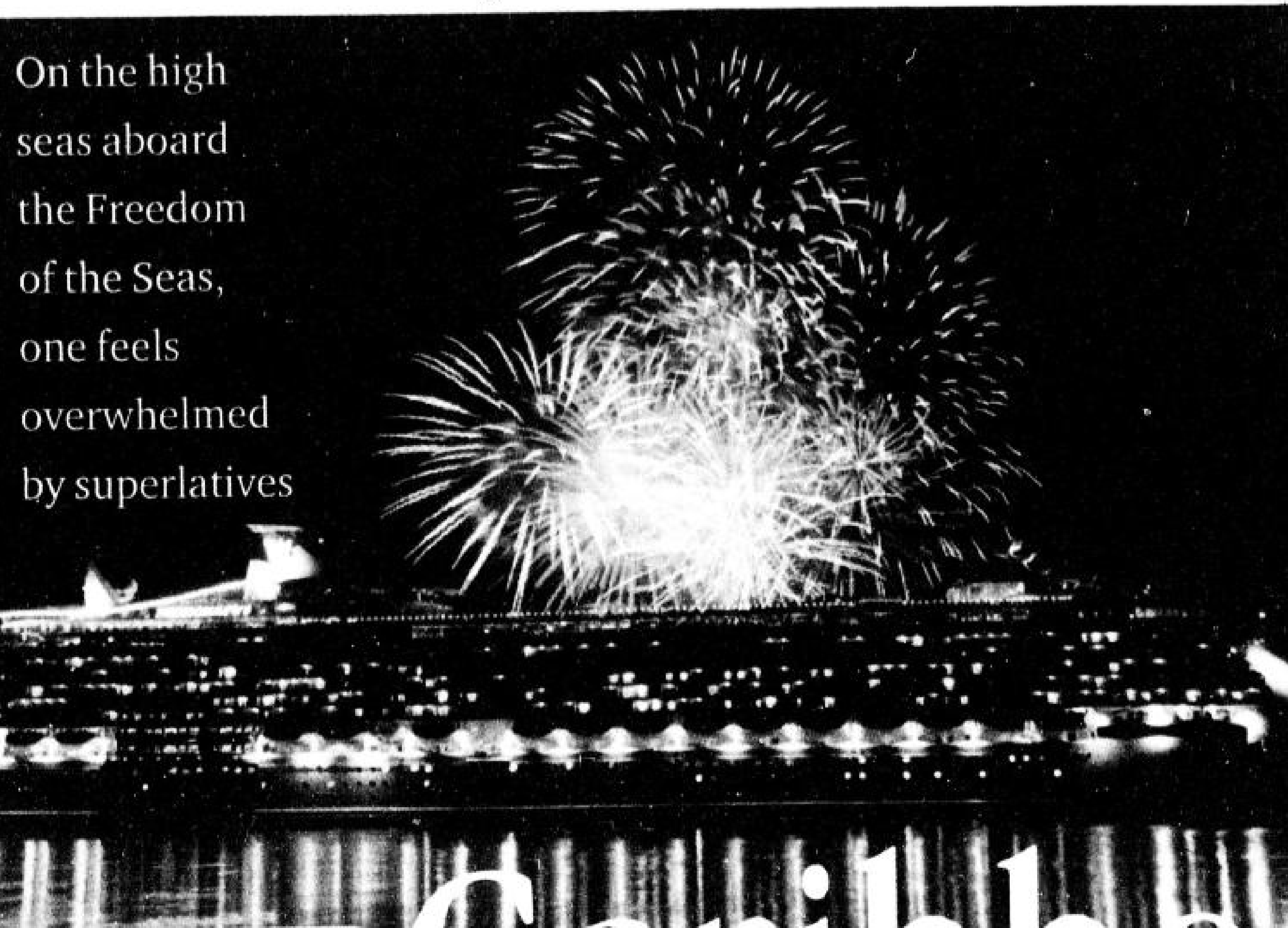


THE WORLD'S largest cruise ship, Freedom of the Seas of Royal Caribbean, with lots of life boats



On the high seas aboard the Freedom of the Seas, one feels overwhelmed by superlatives

COLORFUL waterpark featuring interactive sculpture fountains at H2O Zone

Royal pirate of the Caribbean

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

THE SEA PRINCESS WAS part of the Philippine media team cruising aboard the world's largest and most luxurious cruise ship, Freedom of the Seas. With the same fanfare as an Olympic sportsman, I proudly raised our nation's colors as I boarded for the ship's inaugural launch out of Southampton, England.

GLITZY Las Vegas-style Casino Royale with one of the Pinay blackjack dealers

GRAND stateroom

EXCELLENT dining room waiters from the Philippines headed by assistant maitre d' Gregorio Gutierrez in the center

Flying in from Amsterdam on KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, our media group had a lovely view of London's Big Ben and Tower Bridge from the sky, thanks to our KLM connection, corporate sales' **Dindin Monserrate**, who sat in the cockpit next to the handsome pilots. We had two days to enjoy bustling but nippy London before heading to the cruise. We stayed at the very hip and cool Cumberland Hotel in the very central area of Marble Arch.

From our first glance, the Freedom was more than a "ship of dreams." Royal Caribbean International has outdone itself with a ship designed to offer an all-inclusive "freedom of choices" experience for the entire family. Everything about Freedom is expressed in superlatives—it is longer-than-the-Eiffel-Tower tall; it has too many lifeboats to count; it weighs more than 80,000 cars!

Invited by Arpan Air, the exclusive representative of Royal Caribbean and Celebrity Cruises (call 8922702 or e-mail rylcaribbean@arpanair.com), I was amazed with the unparalleled opportunities of fun, exciting activities out in the open sea. My image of cruises being for senior citizens sipping piña coladas while strolling on walkers was instantly wiped away!

Arpan Air CEO **Marilen Yaptangco** and SVP **Joy Abrogar** explained that Freedom offers a holiday concept—families and friends enjoying activities together and still having the chance for privacy. And what amenities! Ice-skating rink, indoor Las Vegas-style promenade, night club, interactive waterpark aside from a huge pool area, first-ever shipboard surf park, 1,350-capacity theater and a multi-level formal dining ballroom, just to name a few.

Pinoy crew

Upon checking into my room with its magnificent deck view, I immediately noticed a number of Filipino crew. Thanks to them, our Filipino delegation received extra-special care and attention. A few hours after settling in, Freedom conducted the obligatory emergency drill complete with donning of the safety vest. During the drill, I noticed one of the assisting Filipino crew was the studio photographer. So right after the practice, I headed to the photo gallery for a photo op!

HIGHEST-IN-COMMAND Capt. William Wright of the United States

ARPAN Air CEO Marilen Yaptangco and husband Alex

Walking from one end of Freedom to the other is a good workout! This ship is enormous! It takes several hours just to get one's bearings inside the ship. There are so many places to see, explore and enjoy. With all the eating, I did hit the full-range ShipShape Fitness Center, complete with boxing ring, state-of-the-art gym equipment and a full-service spa (of course, with Pinoy masseurs). I was even able to get into some yoga poses during one of the classes offered.

Over one dinner, I felt like a real princess as I entered the three-level dining room. Gigantic chandeliers and seating for over 2,000 guests gives one an enormous feeling of grandness, while the gastronomic menu is delicious down to dessert. Our table was the most attended to because a number of the Pinoy waiters recognized INQUIRER columnist **Maurice Arcache.**

After dinner, a spectacular fireworks display was viewed from the top deck as we set sail from Southampton Port. Live wire DJ music got everyone dancing in the floating dance floor as we all grooved under the stars. The colorful costumes of circus clowns and magicians made the festivities seem endless, even continuing up to the Freedom Parade the next day. Non-stop entertainment for all ages seemed to be the order of the day. Royal Caribbean boasts the most spectacular shows and entertainment on board their entire fleet.

From the dance floor, we proceeded to the Art-Deco style Arcadia Theater, which can seat 1,350 guests. The main show was called "Marquee," a lively medley of Broadway songs and dances. For the second evening, the entertainment was an ice-skating show called "Freedom Ice," an interactive, professional ice show focusing on the concept of breaking boundaries.

Freedom also boasts a glitzy, Las Vegas-style casino with 19 gaming tables and 308 slot machines. Naturally, I had to try my luck, but let's just say I was lucky enough to be on board without having to win anything. It felt like I was back home in a Pagcor casino, but the stakes were in dollars so I had to be extra careful.

TOP ROYAL Caribbean International heads, VP for Sales & Marketing Maria Sastre, president Adam Goldstein and director Rama Rebbapragada with Arpan SVP Joy Abrogar

Applause

At the main press conference with Capt. **William Wright** and the rest of the Royal Caribbean International top honchos including their president, **Adam Goldstein**, the press corps had so many questions and comments—from the availability of vegetarian food to waste disposal to keeping intimacy in a 4,375-guest capacity ship. Before I asked the final question, I commented first on the extremely awesome service we were getting from the Filipino crew working in almost all areas of the ship. The entire audience applauded with approval and I felt an overwhelming sense of Pinoy pride.

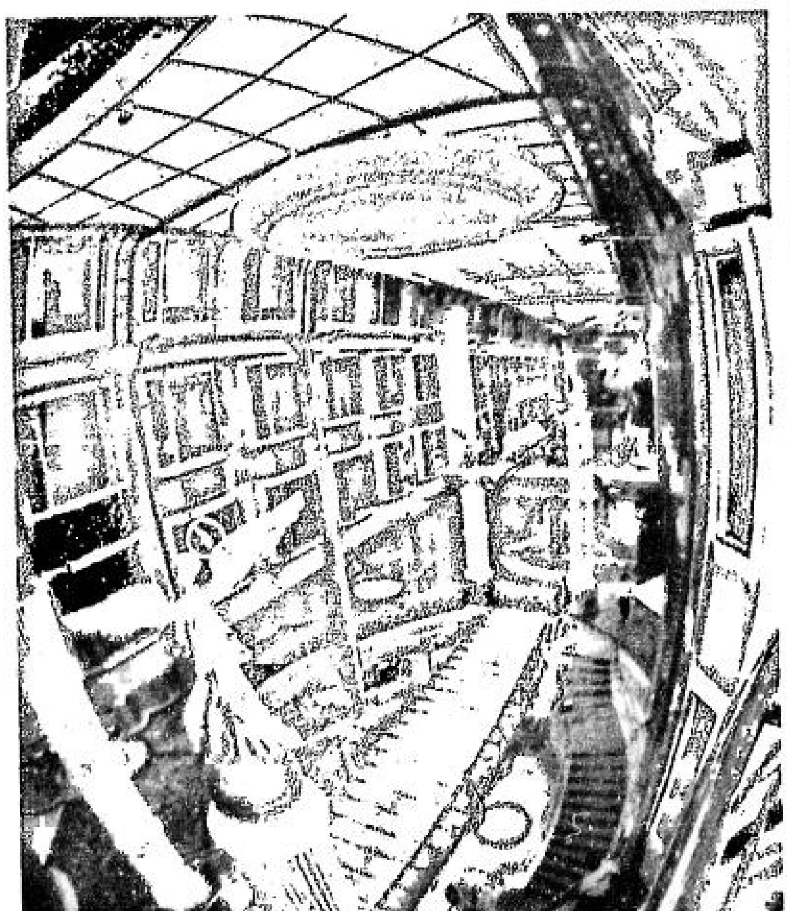
The captain quickly commented that Freedom could not operate so smoothly and efficiently without its Pinoy crew. In fact, late last year, Captain Wright was given a citation by President GMA for the 10,000 jobs Royal Caribbean has extended to Filipinos.

My final question was, "What does it take to sit at the Captain's table?" That question got me an upgrade as I was invited to the next highest-ranking table where I met Royal Caribbean international sales and marketing division VP **Maria Sastre** and director **Rama Rebbapragada**. It was indeed a most enjoying evening from any table in the grand salon.

I can't wait until my next cruise on board the Freedom of the Seas. The ship plies the seas around Miami and the Caribbean Islands and if we get lucky, I might just name my next baby "Pirate!" And that might finally get me a seat at the Captain's Table.

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph

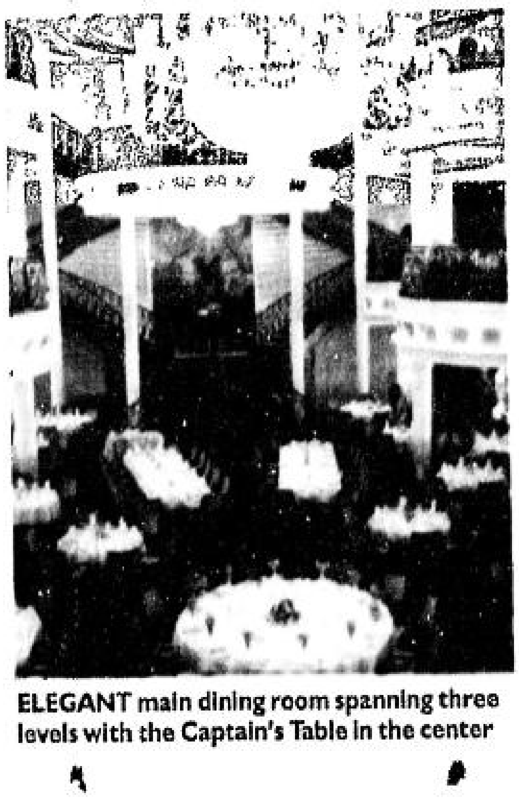
JOANNE Ramirez, Joy Abrogar, Maurice Arcache, Sea Princess and Dindin Monserrate



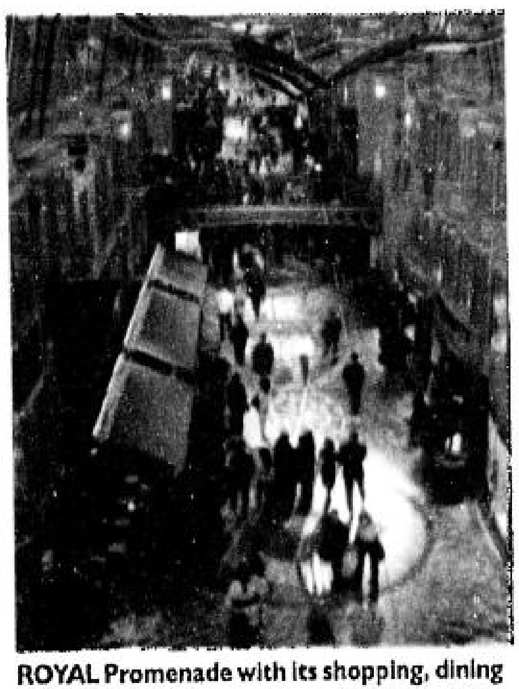
IMPRESSIVE grand staircase at the heart of the ship on Deck 5

RESIDENT Pinoy photographer on board Madelyn Mandia during Safety Drill

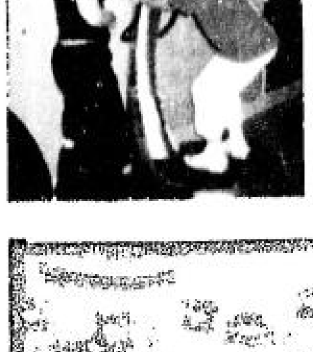
OCEAN-VIEW guest stateroom



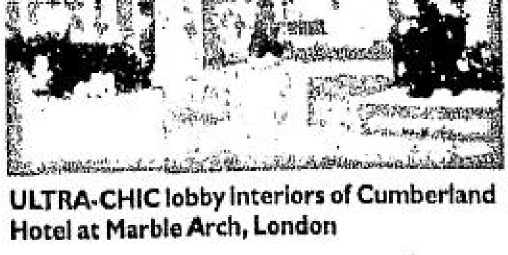
ELEGANT main dining room spanning three levels with the Captain's Table in the center



ROYAL Promenade with its shopping, dining and entertainment boulevard spanning the length of a football field



COLUMNIST Kathy Moran checks out the new equipment at the ShipShape Fitness Center.



ULTRA-CHIC lobby interiors of Cumberland Hotel at Marble Arch, London

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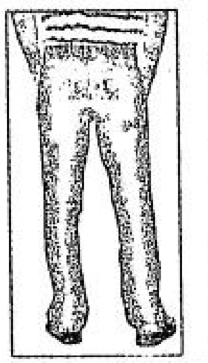

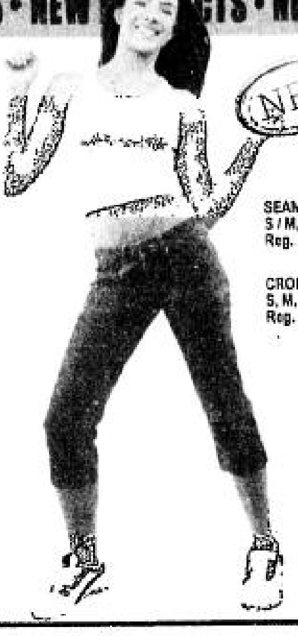

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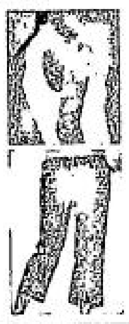

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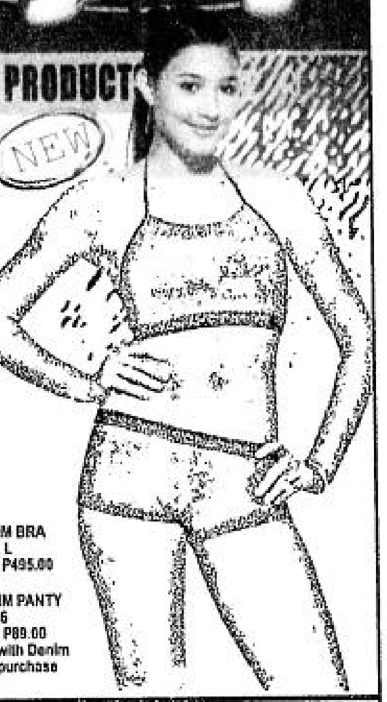

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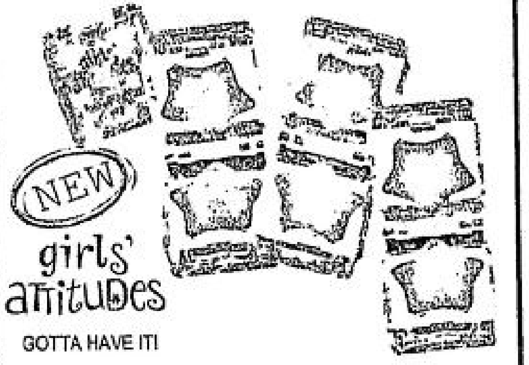

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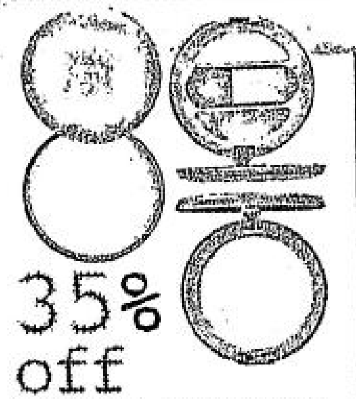

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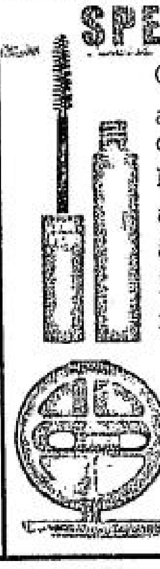

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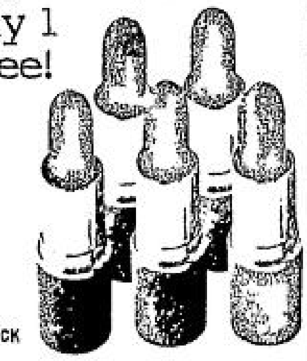

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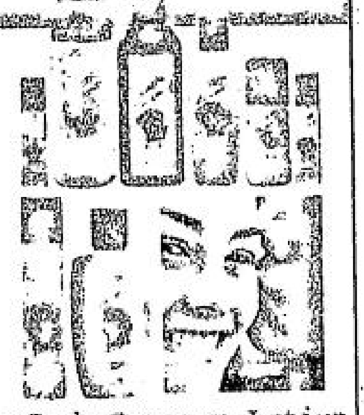

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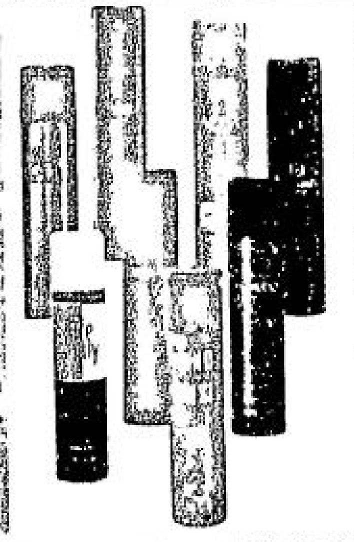

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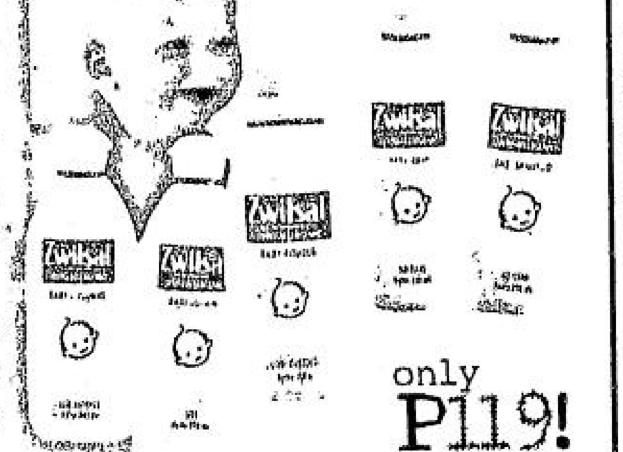

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My Girl	Sam Milby	A3 mygirl	A6 mygirl
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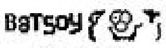
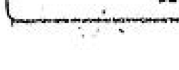
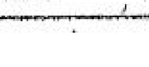


B1 BATSOY

B1 BUGS

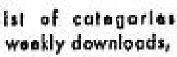
PICTURE MESSAGE


RELAX KA LANG!
B2 RELAXKALANG

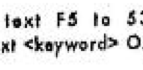


B2 PURRFECT

KAKAINLOVE
B2 INLOVE



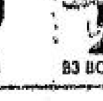
B2 MWAH



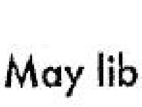
B2 SHAKEIT

MMS WALLPAPER

B3 DJSPIN


B3 CUTEDEVIL

B3 BEACHEGGIE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Sunday LIFESTYLE Weddings

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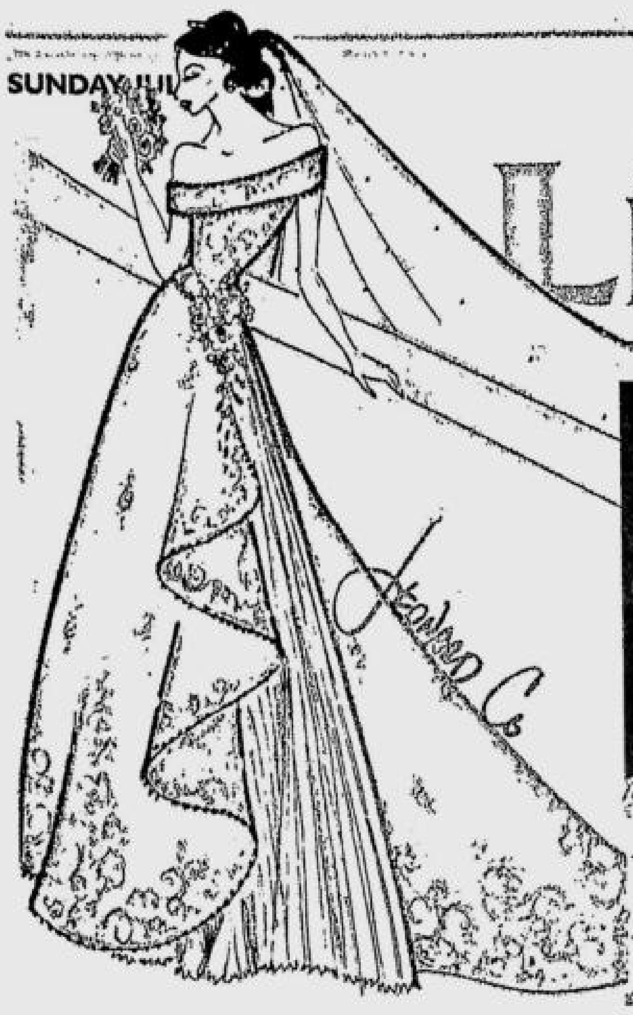


Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, *P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.*

JACINTO DEBUT

Fatima C. Jacinto, daughter of former Marinduque Gov. **Bong** and **Armi Carreon**, celebrated yesterday her 18th birthday at the Maynila Room of Manila Hotel.

GARCIA-TAN

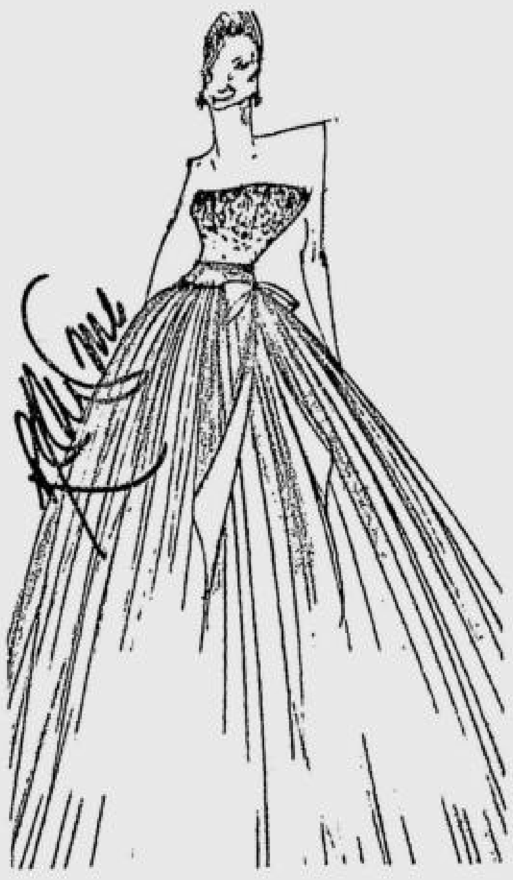
Karen Tan, daughter of **Tan Siong Chuan** and **Tan Carmen See**, will exchange vows with **Jeffre Garcia**, son of **Que Chi Son** and **Yeung Sau Chee**, today, at the Manila Cathedral. Karen will wear a white gazar off-shoulder gown, with draped bouffant skirt with side sunburst pleating, designed by **Leonard Co.**

TORRE-DE LEON

Gabriel Abulencia de la Torre and **Minette Lagman de Leon** were recently wed at St. Francis Chapel. Reception followed at Fernwood Gardens, QC. Both husband and wife are IT professionals working in Singapore.

HITOLIN DEBUT

Maria Isabelle Labalan-Hitolin, daughter of **Eddie** and **Bang (née Labalan) Hitolin** of Magallanes, Sorsogon, celebrated her 18th birthday yesterday. She is a second-year nursing student at Makati Medical Center, RTR MS. The gowns of the debutante and her entourage were designed and executed by **Paul Rex Mateo** of the Wedding Day in Imus, Cavite City.



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2703 Series of 2006

SO-CUA NUPTIALS

Radiant love resplendent ro

The newlyweds looked truly meant for each other, their enamored eyes saying it all

BRADFORD So and attractive bride Jacqueline Cua steal a romantic kiss outside Union Church before rushing off to their wedding reception.

Text b
Photos

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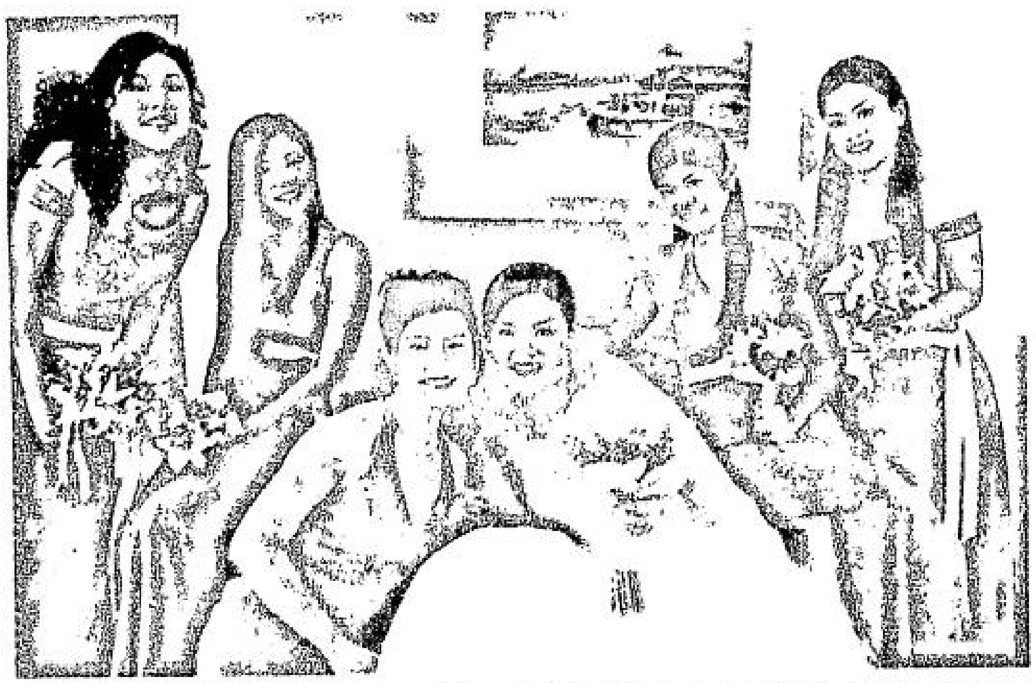
BRAD and Jacq with the groom's *famille*: Chandra, Candace, Corazon So and husband Roberto So, Bradley, Brian, Jing, Kyra and Brad

THE COUPLE with the bride's elegant mother Edna Cua, brother Jeff, sister-in-law Ingrid, and little nephew Jaime



THE STUNNING bride with her eye-catching bridal party: Chandra So, Tiffany Shau, Lavinia So, Lisa So and Candace So

---

"Good" and "bad" fats – you should know the difference for your heart health

Protecting your heart health

In addition to regular exercise, eating a heart-healthy diet is important for the prevention and treatment of heart disease.

The American Heart Association suggests eating a diet rich in fruits, vegetables and whole grain products, fish, legumes (peas and beans), poultry and lean meats. Dairy products should be fat-free or low-fat. Foods high in cholesterol and sodium, as well as alcohol intake, should be limited.

Not all fats are equal

But what about fats? The American Heart Association suggests limiting foods high in fat. Should you avoid them altogether? No, not quite. This is what you should know:

Although all fats are equal in calories, some are healthier than others. "Saturated" fats tend to increase blood cholesterol levels and promote the clogging of arteries. "Unsaturated fats", which include the polyunsaturated (PUFA) and monounsaturated (MUFA) fats, have beneficial effects on heart health and can even help reduce the risk of heart disease.

Substituting the saturated fat in your diet with unsaturated fat can reduce total cholesterol and improve the ratio of HDL ("good") to LDL ("bad") cholesterol. Based on studies of people from the Mediterranean, MUFAs may have benefits on heart health. This population consumes large quantities of MUFA-rich olive oil and has a low rate of heart disease. Recent studies also show that MUFAs may reduce high blood pressure and improve the structure of the arteries.

Getting the right balance: SFAs, MUFAs and PUFAs

It may sound difficult to keep track of which fats are good and which are bad. However, increasing your awareness of where the good and bad fats can be found in the diet is one of the first steps you can take to keep your diet heart-healthy.

Saturated fat: These fats tend to be in solid form (for example, lard, butter) and are found in fatty meats, dairy products derived from whole milk, and some tropical oils. The American Heart Association recommends that saturated fat calories make up 10% or less of our total caloric intake each day. This can be achieved relatively easily by selecting lower fat or non-fat meat and dairy products rather than their higher fat counterparts.

Unsaturated fat – PUFAs and MUFAs: In general, these fats tend to be more fluid. Vegetable and fish oils are rich in PUFAs, whereas olive oil and canola oils are rich in MUFAs.

Defensive dining

To reduce dietary fat overall and improve your unsaturated fat intake, you can start with these three easy suggestions:

(1) Avoid the use of fat as a seasoning and cooking methods that require high amounts of fat; instead, consider baking, poaching or grilling foods
(2) Cut down on your intake of red meat
(3) Substitute high fat foods with lower fat alternatives

A nutritional supplement in your daily diet?

Eating a healthy snack or meal can be difficult if you lead an active or busy lifestyle. Many "convenient" snacks or foods are high in both fat and sodium. A nutrient-rich nutritional supplement, with a heart-healthy fat blend and a full range of vitamins and minerals, is an important option. A nutritional supplement offers good-health benefits that can help meet the needs of your active life.

Know more about Heart-Healthy supplements by calling HCS at 689-0444 or toll free line at 1-800-108-433-HCS

NOURISH YOUR HEART TO HEALTH

Dr. Ludgerio Torres, Cardio Surgeon; Medical Director of the Philippine Heart Center

Cardiovascular disease is now the no.1 killer disease. This is due to the intake of fast food and junk food and a sedentary lifestyle. Salty and high cholesterol food as well as overeating should be avoided.

Nutrition is very important in surgery. Surgical patients have to be nutritionally prepared because they undergo several days without food intake. Keeping them adequately nourished prior to surgery helps prevent complications and improve wound healing.

Nutritional drinks are important because the patients don't just need carbohydrates, fats and protein; but they also need vitamins, minerals and trace elements.

Dr. Luisito Llido, Surgeon; Head, Clinical Nutrition Center, St. Luke's Medical Center

Awareness of the value of nutrition is very low. It's the last item considered in the management of patients, which should not be the case. Treating a patient without nutrition is like running a car without a gasoline. The gasoline is nutrition. Without it, healing is slow and the patient is more prone to infections. You also expect increased morbidities, mortality, poorer quality of life, and more expenses for our patients. Nutrition enhances recovery, hastens healing and lessens complications by optimizing the body's metabolism. Studies show a mortality rate reduction of 50% among critically ill patients through nutrition support.

Dr. Divina Esteban, Medical Oncologist; President of the Philippine Society of Oncology, Inc.

Lifestyle factors which include an unhealthy diet and exposure to carcinogens like smoking, radiation and viruses have made cancer more prevalent than it was years ago.

Nutrition and cancer go together. A patient who is inadequately nourished responds poorly to cancer treatments. Studies also show that if you feed the cancer patient, you also feed the cancer cells. Cancer patients must take food that has less sugar and more lipids so that you don't feed the cancer cells. Patients must have a balanced diet which is rich in fruits, vegetables and fiber. They must also eat less red meat and more fish. Nutritional supplements also improve a patient's well-being as well as his health.

Dr. Romulo De Villa, Nutrition Oncologist; Founding President, Molecular Oncology Society of the Philippines; Board of Directors, Philippine Society of Oncology, Inc.

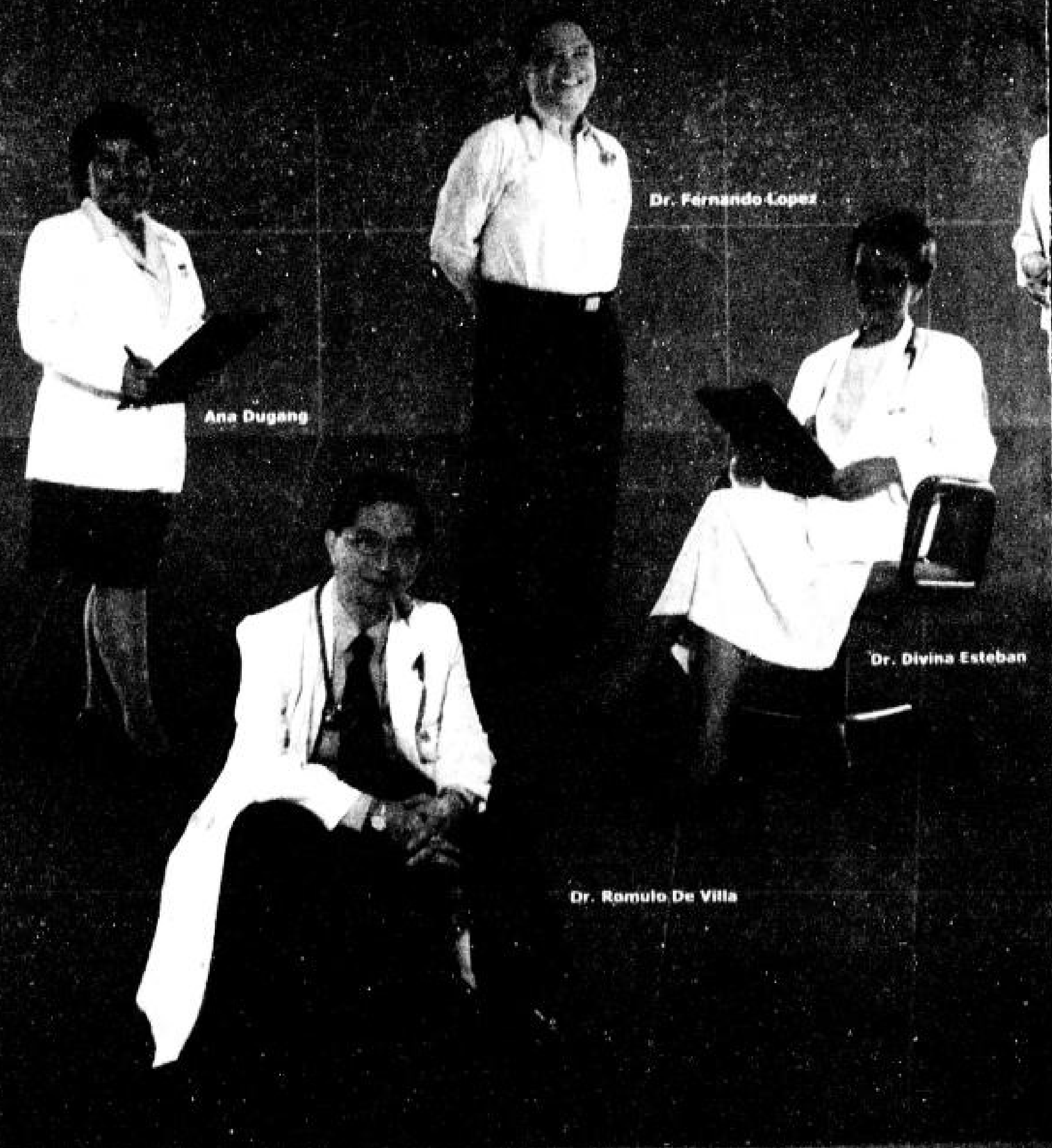
Cancer always involves nutrition. The entry point of chemicals which damage the body and cause cancer, is through the mouth.

Studies involving cancer and nutrition have shown that a combination of spinach (the Nutrient Lipoic acid found in spinach) and vitamin C kills cancer cells. Recent studies on Fiber show that it can control the entry of sugars into the blood. Sugar feeds cancer cells. Therefore, if you want to control the feeding of cancer cells, you must have enough fiber in your diet. A study on another kind of Fiber - FOS or Fructooligosacharides show that it nourishes good bacteria in our intestines. Good bacteria strengthens our immune system.

Aside from proper nutrition, adult nutritional drinks are crucial to the recovery of patients. They must be added to the regular diet because regular diet alone is not sufficient for a complete and balanced nutrition.

EXPERT ADVICE

To find out more about the importance of nutrition,
endocrinologists, surgeons, oncologists and dietician
their respective fie



Abbott Celebrates Nutrition Month

Activities in the top 80 hospitals nationwide

- Expand Your Knowledge : "Examine the clinical, financial and emotional effects of malnutrition." - A scientific lecture for MD's and RND's
- Listen and Learn : Attend a lecture on the importance of nutrition and how it can change your life - A Lay Fora for consumers.
- Free Sample : Drink to your health with free Ensure and Glucerna samples.
- Free Consultations : Drop by our Nutrition & Wellness counters in hospital lobbies and avail of the following services :

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birds, mance

Maurice Arcache
by Alex Van Hagen

WAS A TRULY BLESSED UNION, inggas. It oozed with love and joy as couple basked in the presence of ınd invitees.

radiant bride, Jacqueline Cua, and ndsome groom, Bradford So, were l in the elegantly decorated Union of Manila before superb hotshots of

ves were on the elegant and graceful ıs she walked down the aisle in a gor- princess-inspired gown by Larry Es-

duchess-satin, princess-cut dress d with cut-glass beads, lustrous se- nd Swarovski crystals. It flaunted a gal train.

dashing groom got his share of ooh's 's, especially from the young gang. clad in a real cool tux by Bergamo, He waited at the altar and gazed ad- y at his soon-to-be wife on the aisle walked toward him. As this was going re was unmistakable admiration and ıent in the church.

loubt about it, *palanggas*. The two ds were meant for each other, and ıamored eyes said it all.

the "I do's," and the public applause and Mrs. Bradford So, the whole g entourage and invitees dashed the Clipper Lounge of the elegant rin Oriental Hotel, where cocktails rved.

bride's mother, elegant and stat- Edna Cua, beamed with pride and utterly divine. She was also in a chic spinosa masterpiece, dahlings.

then rang, announcing that the reception was to start at the Man- ballroom. Everyone stood up as the couple made their entrance.

Mandarin ballroom looked like a l island. Its aqua-blue and yellow omplemented the water theme of the s, which were also adorned with blue hydrangeas, white roses and light yellow gerberas, and dazzling Tivoli and stucco lights.

In another part of the ballroom was a breathtaking waterfall whose cascading waters were matched by liquid music from a soothing string quartet that heightened the atmosphere of romance.

Super-close pals and relatives who wouldn't miss the love-happening for anything included Rep. Junie Cua; former Rep. Maria Angela Cua; Vice Gov. Dax Cua, president of Uni Oil; Esther Magleo, CEO of Informatics in Festival Mall; Jefferson Cua, chair of Asian Alliance; George Go; and Sabsy Palanca, chair of Women's Business Council of the Philippines; plus others like them too adorable to mention.

Yes, *palanggas*, throughout that spectacular day, Brad and Jacq radiated a kind of love that I wish we can all find in this lifetime.

Cheers, dahlings.

HOTSHOT invitees include Mary Ann Cua with husband Rep. Junie Cua; George Go and Sabsy Palanca

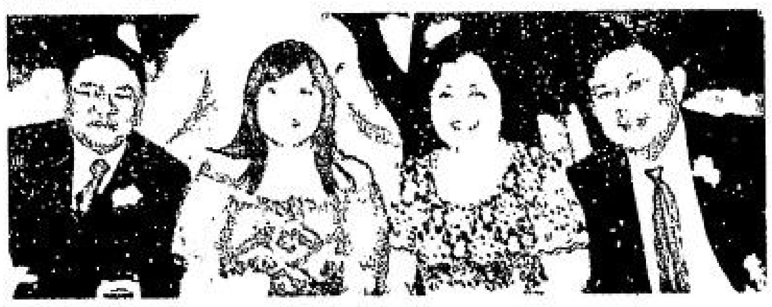
WITH Lionel Shau, Mela Tan, Carmencita Chua and Tessie Shau

SUPER eligible Vice Governor of Quirino, tall and handsome Dax Cua, wins the garter for a chance encounter with the gorgeous Marie Chua

VENJA and Francisco Chua, with Rose and Robert Obiado

THE DAZZLING couple with Desiree Lim, Marie Jane Chua, Aretha Yu, Mr. and Ms Eugene So and Matthew So

WITH Evelio and Jennifer Lim, and Antonio and Luz How


HAROLD and Jett Dacumos, and Maricor and lawyer Domingo Castillo

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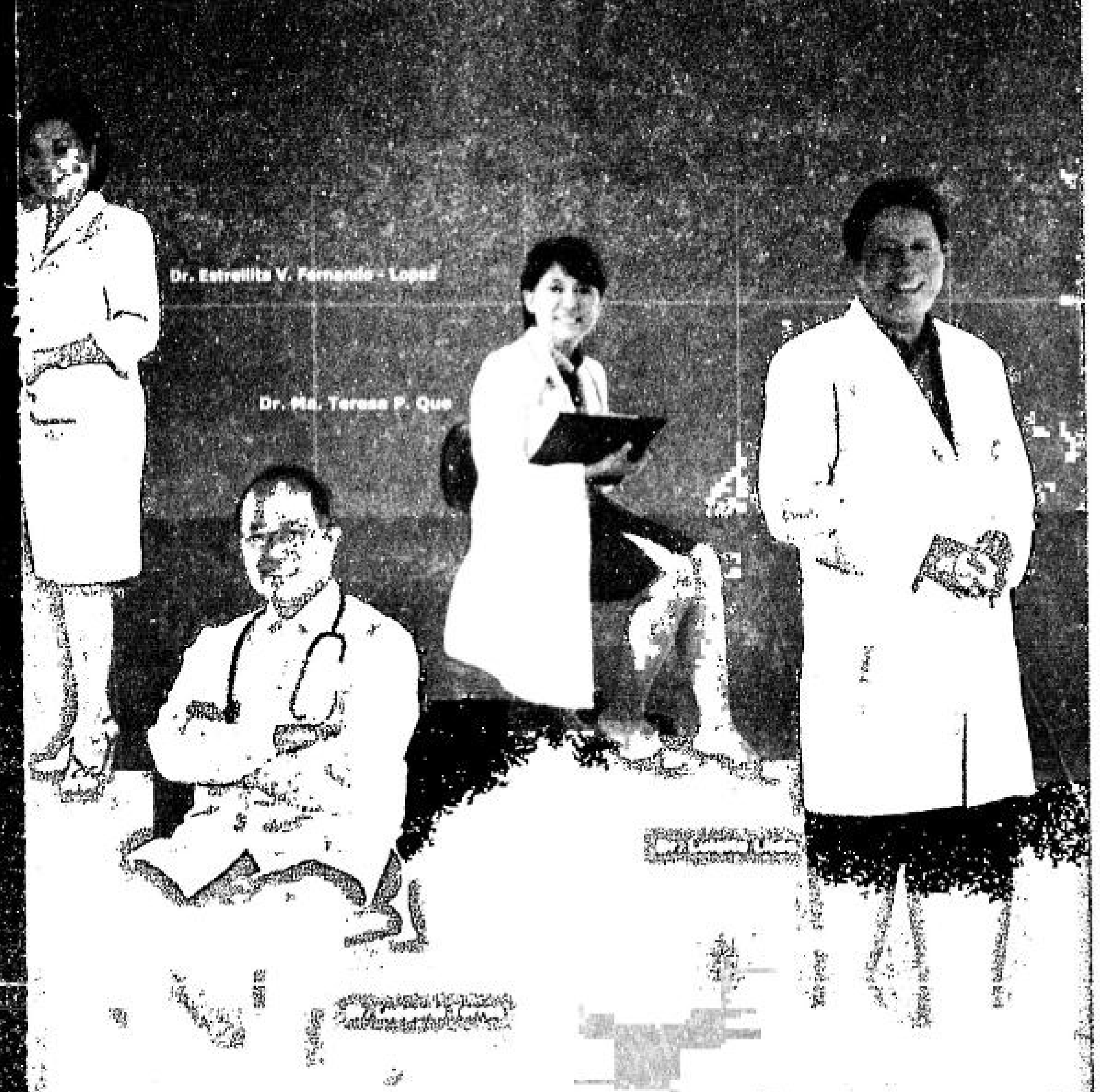
ON NUTRITION

Abbott Nutrition brought together the country's top s to share their views on the way nutrition affects lds of medicine.


Dr. Estrellita V. Fernando - Lopez
Dr. Ma. Teresa P. Que

EATING WELL DESPITE DIABETES

Dr. Fernando Lopez, Surgeon; President, Philippine College of Surgeons (2003); Executive Director, Philippine Board of Surgery

Nutrition is considered very important to surgery. Numerous scientific researches have been conducted regarding nutrition and the important role it plays among cancer patients undergoing treatment - be it surgical, medical or radiological. The surgical outcomes of major operations depend, to a large extent, on the nutritional status of our patients before, during and after surgery.

Surgical malnutrition is mostly surgeon-induced. Patients are often kept without food days before surgery and maintained without food many more days after surgery. Ideally, we should keep our patients without food at the shortest possible time before surgery and fed as early as possible after surgery provided no contraindication exists.

Nutritional drinks hasten the recovery of patients after major operations, particularly for cancer. Usually, patients do not have an appetite for food in the immediate post-operative days, thus, we rely on nutritional supplements to augment their caloric requirements.

Dr. Ma. Teresa P. Que, Endocrinologist; President, Philippine Diabetes Association

An understanding of basic nutrition information is very important for both the diabetic and the non-diabetic. In these modern times, many people have adopted a high sugar, high saturated fat, low fiber diet and this state of poor nutrition has led to the great increase in diabetes, heart disease, stroke and cancer among the population.

Everyone should adopt a healthy lifestyle by eating at least 3-5 servings of fruits and vegetables a day, exercising regularly, maintaining ideal body weight, de-stressing regularly and not smoking. Diabetics who cannot eat their required share of fruits, vegetables and fiber daily can add complete and balanced nutritional drinks during snack time or as a meal replacement if missed meals are unavoidable due to various life activities.

Dr. Estrellita V. Fernando - Lopez; Vice-President, American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists, Philippine Chapter

Nutrition is very important because diabetic patients need to be highly motivated to follow the diet required of them. A recent study has shown that an adequate amount of monounsaturated fatty acids may be given to diabetic patients as the main provider of their fat requirement. This helps patients improve their blood glucose control. Fiber should also be amply supplied in the diet to increase satiety and to improve glycemic control by helping control post-prandial peaks. Eating foods with low glycemic index is likewise advised.

A diabetic's special nutritional requirement likewise includes a readily available source of energy specially when they are away from home. This can be provided by nutritional drinks. This solves the problem of having to prepare a special diet for the diabetic and another type of food for the other members of the family.

Ana Dugang, Chief Dietician, Makati Medical Center

The incidence of heart disease and diabetes are more prevalent now than several years ago. These may be attributed to the quality of food being served. With the occurrence of convenience food and fast food, a lot of people are not aware that excessive consumption of this kind of food will eventually lead to weight gain which results in obesity, hypertension and diabetes.

All this chronic degenerative diseases will lead to malnutrition if not treated properly. Since one side effect of cancer treatment (such as chemotherapy and radiotherapy) is a loss of appetite, the patients' sense of taste and the ability to swallow their food is diminished. In the process, they begin to lose weight. Small frequent meals are advised since they can only consume so much. Giving patients oral nutritional drinks will also help increase their energy. A high dosage of these drinks will help in getting the sufficient amount of nutrients because it already contains the required amounts of calories, vitamins and minerals needed for faster recovery.

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Your heart is the center of activity in your body. Every part of your system depends on it. If your heart is healthy, your entire body benefits. But if it's not, then your whole body suffers. Your heart is in charge of pumping life-giving blood to your entire body, providing nourishment and oxygen to all the cells in your tissues, organs, muscles and bones. The blood moves from the heart into your arteries, then into tiny tubes called capillaries, and finally into the veins that lead back to your heart.

Although your heart is a powerful organ, it can be damaged by disease and poor living habits like smoking, an unhealthy diet, lack of exercise and stress. All these may weaken your body and hamper your blood circulation.

ENSURE helps fight off the harmful effects of free radicals caused by these unhealthy habits. Its unique Heart Defense System creates a shield around your heart to help protect you from an attack. Combined with proper diet and regular exercise, it helps ensure nothing interferes with the way your heart pumps life-giving blood and nutrients to the rest of your body.

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Low saturated fats - Helps prevent the heart-blocking effects of bad cholesterol and accumulation of harmful fatty deposits in your arteries

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She forgives, but can she forget?

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

DEAR EMILY,

In December, 2004, I caught my husband of 31 years in *flagrante delicto* with a woman whom I thought was a family friend. I couldn't understand why a seemingly devoted wife and mother of three teenaged girls and a 9-year-old son could have the gall to double-cross her good husband.

The pain of betrayal was so great, I thought of leaving my husband.

But, since I have a daughter with a history of depression who was surely going to be grossly affected, I dropped the idea. Besides, were it not for his philandering, he had been a good husband and father to my children.

I now realize that my occasional hunches about his philandering the last 30 years were not mere hunches after all. I trusted him so much that I always believed his side of the story—hook, line and sinker.

It is for this reason that I felt much cheated. Despite his doing a *mea culpa* for three months now, I still can't get over it. I wear a mask of joy whenever my family is around but the pain inside is eating me up. The emotional and psychological baggage is too much to bear.

BURDENED WIFE

You have to let time take its course and allow the wound your husband inflicted upon you to heal. You cannot hurry it and neither can you forget it right away.

It's like asking the question: how do you eat an elephant? And the answer is—one bite at a time. Same-same.

If you have accepted him already because, as you said, he has been a good father and husband anyway, you have to make a resolution to drive away thoughts of his philandering every time it crosses your mind.

You didn't lose him, he didn't leave you and he has asked for your forgiveness—which you gave! Now, do your part and pull yourself together to really forget that episode!

Men have usually short memories and your husband might have already forgotten that affair with your friend as he dried himself up after his shower. Most of them have absolutely no scruples and an affair is sometimes nothing but a tennis match or a walk in the park.

It is, of course, the complete opposite for us women—we mope, agonize, sulk and carry love affairs like they are sacks of rice.

Every time you put on a happy face for your friends, believe that you really are happy—happy that you've gone over another hump in your 30-year marriage and happy that, despite everything, he is still there as part of your one family.

If, despite everything, you still feel wounded and terribly suspicious of your husband, then ask yourself if you'd be happier being alone and separated, and without him in your life forever.

Life is short. Take your pick.

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. *Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday- Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.*

Reunions

THE IV-10 GRADUATES OF the Arellano High School Class 1947 are holding a reunion. Call Lolita Gatus Geronimo at 7149880, Charito dela Rosa Pastor at 7110368, and Norberto Asprer 2972187 and 2971636.

St. Scho

St. Scholastica's College High School REC (Religion Extension Class) will mark its 20th year 5-9 p.m., July 21, at the Sr. Kuniberta Hall (old gym). REC 1986-2006 alumnae are invited to "Bente Sa Ciento: The REC Grand Reunion." Call Yas Rodriguez at 5247686 loc. 370 or 0917-9164725 on or before July 12. Join the REC yahoogroup by sending an empty message to ssc_rec-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

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LIFE IS A PICNIC

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Since today's customers demand only the best, it has been the constant resolve of food enterprises to meet their high expectations on taste and product reliability. **MEKENI FOOD CORPORATION** did more than that by earning the "National Winner for Best Meat Processing Plant" award in 2004 and 2005.

This company with a passion for excellence and great regard for social responsibility has recently launched its latest winner... the **MEKENI PICNIC PREMIUM HOTDOG**... through a series of radio and television commercials and exciting print ads.

As part of the company's desire to interact with its customers, MEKENI FOOD CORPORATION has decided to bring the *"picnic"* right at the very heart of your neighborhood through a nationwide series of MALL TOURS that can only spell fun, surprises and entertainment for everyone.

Featured in these events are exhilarating family games wherein big prizes are at stake. Sure to wow the crowd are the energetic performances by the Mekeni Picnic Barkada. The antics of mascots PICNIC and KENI will bring on the smiles on kids and kids at heart. Product samplings and business opportunities are also sidelights of these wonderful events.

So watch out for the series of Mall Tours featuring the Mekeni Picnic Barkada and mascots Picnic and Keni. Fun and prizes await everyone. Be sure to bring the entire family along.

With **MEKENI**, the fun never stops... ***MAKE IT MANY!***

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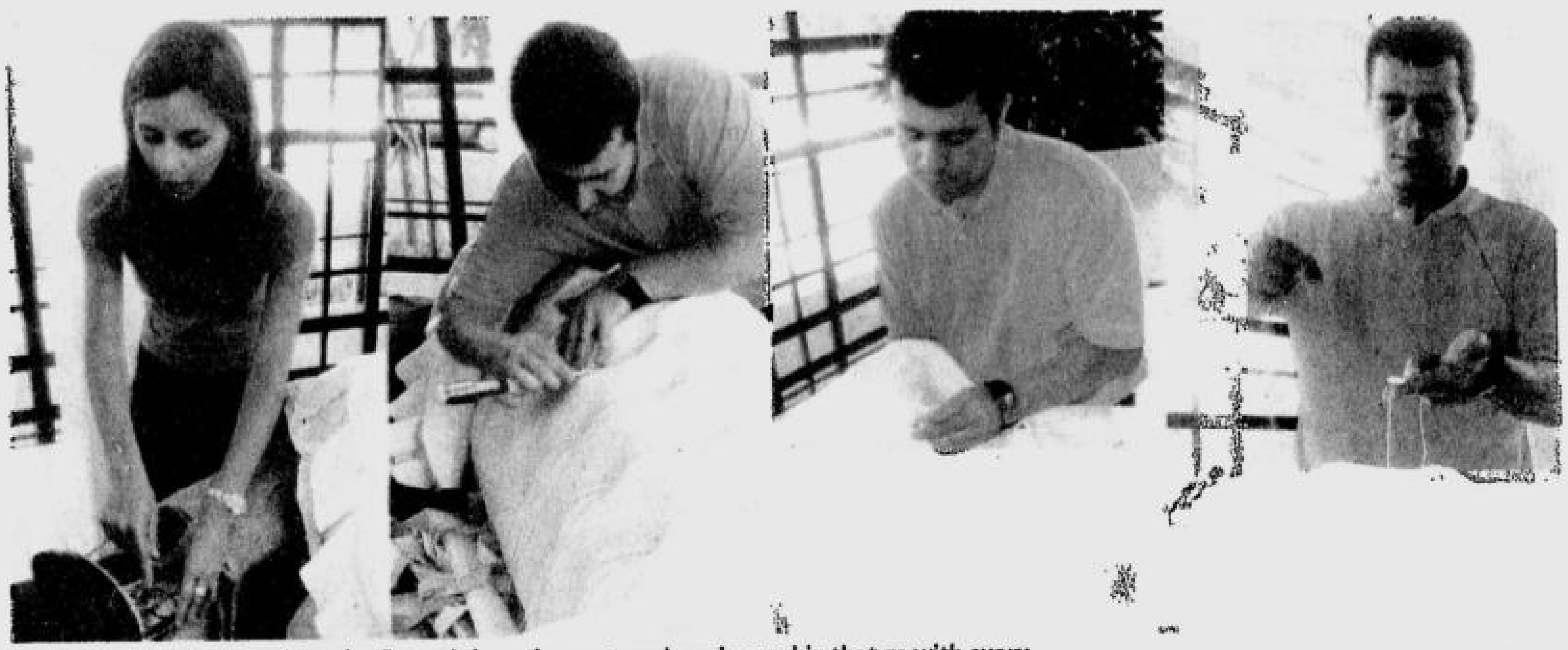
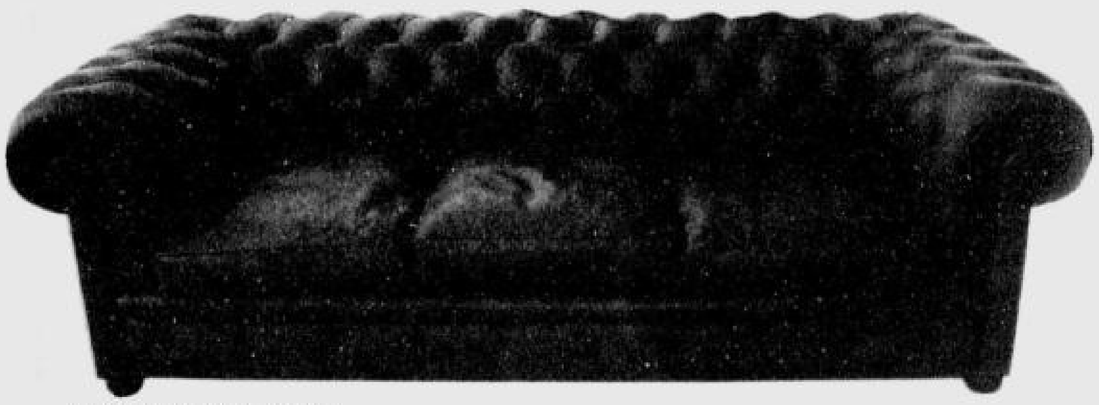


ANNA Martinbianco and Sandro Rogani show the parts and workmanship that go with every Poltrona Frau chair.



PADDED capitone couch

Luxury in leather and style

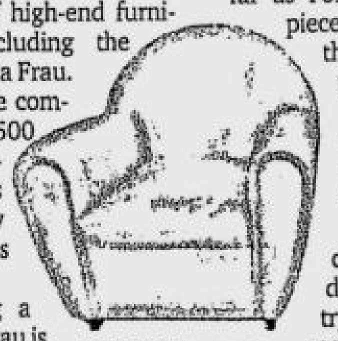
Italian leather furniture great Poltrona Frau remains uncompromising in its standards

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

FURNITURE PIECES WITH the same style and dimensions may appear identical from a distance, but no two leather chairs or sofas will ever look exactly alike. Should this happen, then one of them is a fake.

"Since they're made of cowhide, genuine leather chairs have irregular grains. No two pieces will ever look the same," said Florence Ko, managing director of Furnitalia, exclusive importer and distributor of high-end furniture and accessories, including the world-famous brand Poltrona Frau.

Poltrona Frau, a furniture company that employs nearly 2,500 people in its sprawling factory in Tolentino, Italy, has been producing mostly handcrafted leather pieces for almost 100 years now.



BRIGHT orange accent piece

Apart from establishing a presence in Italy, Poltrona Frau is sold in most major cities all over the world except in South America. It remains a popular brand among affluent Asians, especially the Japanese.

Despite the high cost of labor, Poltrona Frau has chosen to remain in Italy. Not even the lure of cheap labor could entice it to transfer its operations to China or India and, in effect, reveal its trade secrets to outsiders.

To drum up interest in its heritage and "passion for quality," Poltrona Frau recently sent two of its managers on an Asian tour, which included a promotional appearance at the new Furnitalia showroom at The Fort.

Training manager Anna Martinbianco and marketing officer Sandro Rogani also did an on-the-spot demonstration using an unfinished white, two-seater leather sofa.

Dubbed the Chester, the handmade couch takes almost 40 hours to finish. Half of that time is spent on tanning the leather upholstery to achieve the desired color. Customers have close to 100 shades to choose from.

Poltrona Frau's padded Chester may resemble pieces found in a traditional British club where men smoke cigars, said Martinbianco, but its inspiration dates back much earlier and beyond the English Channel.

"French people used to travel on horse-drawn carriages," she said. "Since it was very hard to sit on these carriages, they devised a way to pad the seats."

Added value

This system became known as a capitone, which, apart from keeping the padding in place, adds to a furniture piece's aesthetic value. These days, Poltrona Frau uses hair-like strips made of dried coconut leaves from Morocco to pad its handmade chairs with traditional springs.

Martinbianco also took the opportunity to set the record straight regarding another fallacy. As far as Poltrona Frau is concerned, furniture pieces made of leather don't feel hot on the skin. Nor are they difficult to maintain.

"Our chairs don't generate heat on the surface," she said. "The system and leather we use keep the heat inside the product."

Ko also debunked a common misconception that leather furniture is difficult to maintain in a tropical country like the Philippines. To prove her point, Ko had the three-story all-glass showroom at The Fort built to showcase her merchandise.

"I did it on purpose," Ko said. "I wanted to show people that genuine leather pieces can withstand indirect sunlight."

Filipinos may find a typical Poltrona Frau living room showcase a bit expensive. Don't fall off your chair, but one of its featured couches, for instance, costs P700,000. A leather armchair in vibrant orange can set you back by P400,000.

"Pricey, yes, but expensive, no," said Ko. "A Poltrona Frau piece is something you can pass on to your children and grandchildren. With proper care, it can last 50—even 60—years down the road."

Poltrona Frau uses only tender and expensive cowhide from 3-year-old cows, and discards the cheaper and tougher portion called the crust. Apart from jacking up production cost, the decision limits the company from coming up with very big chairs.

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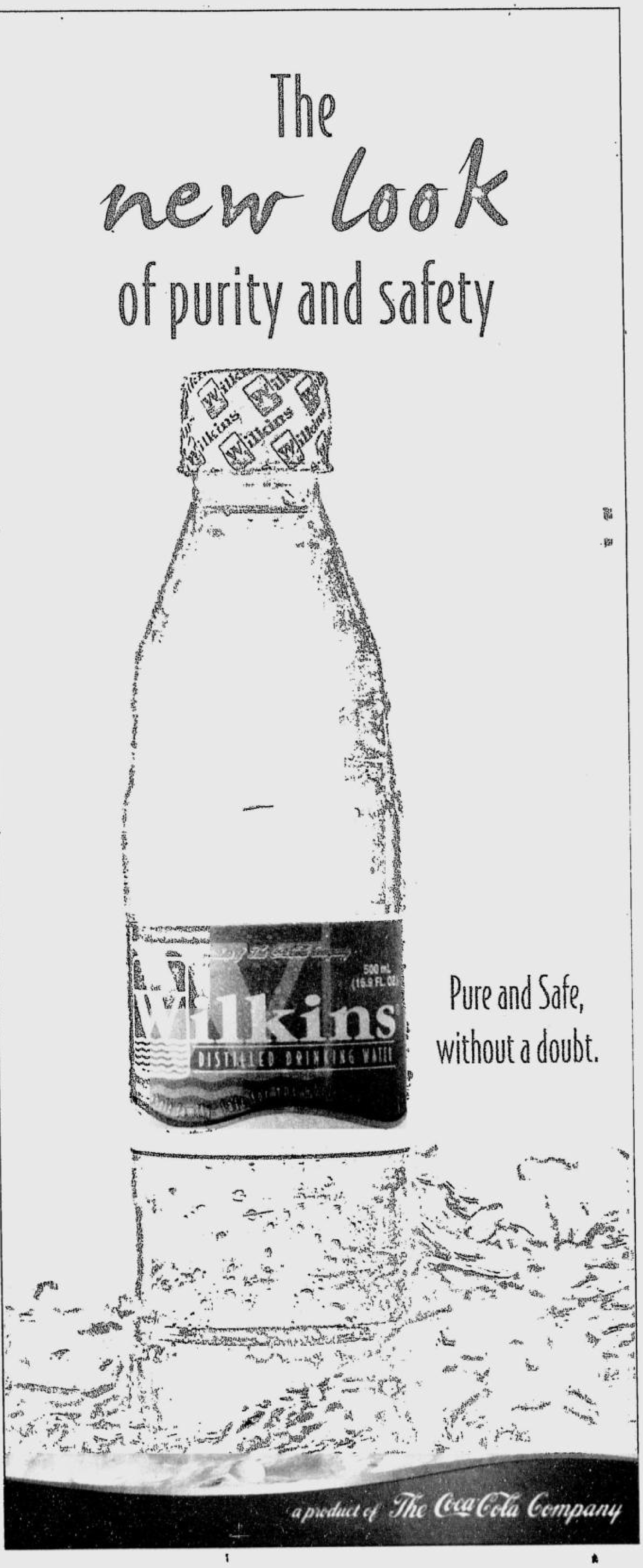
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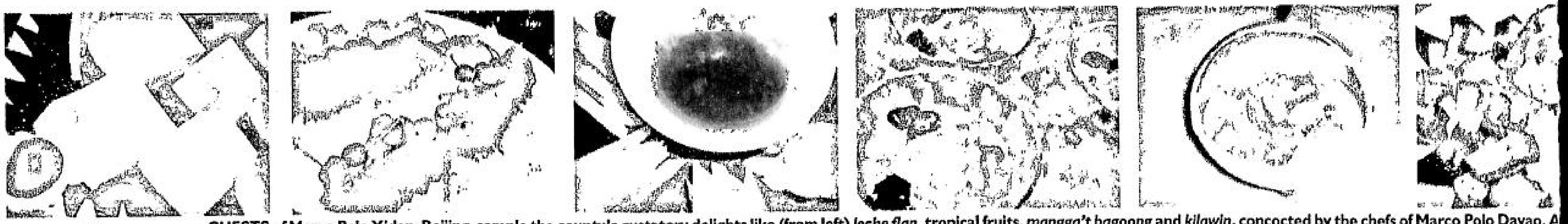
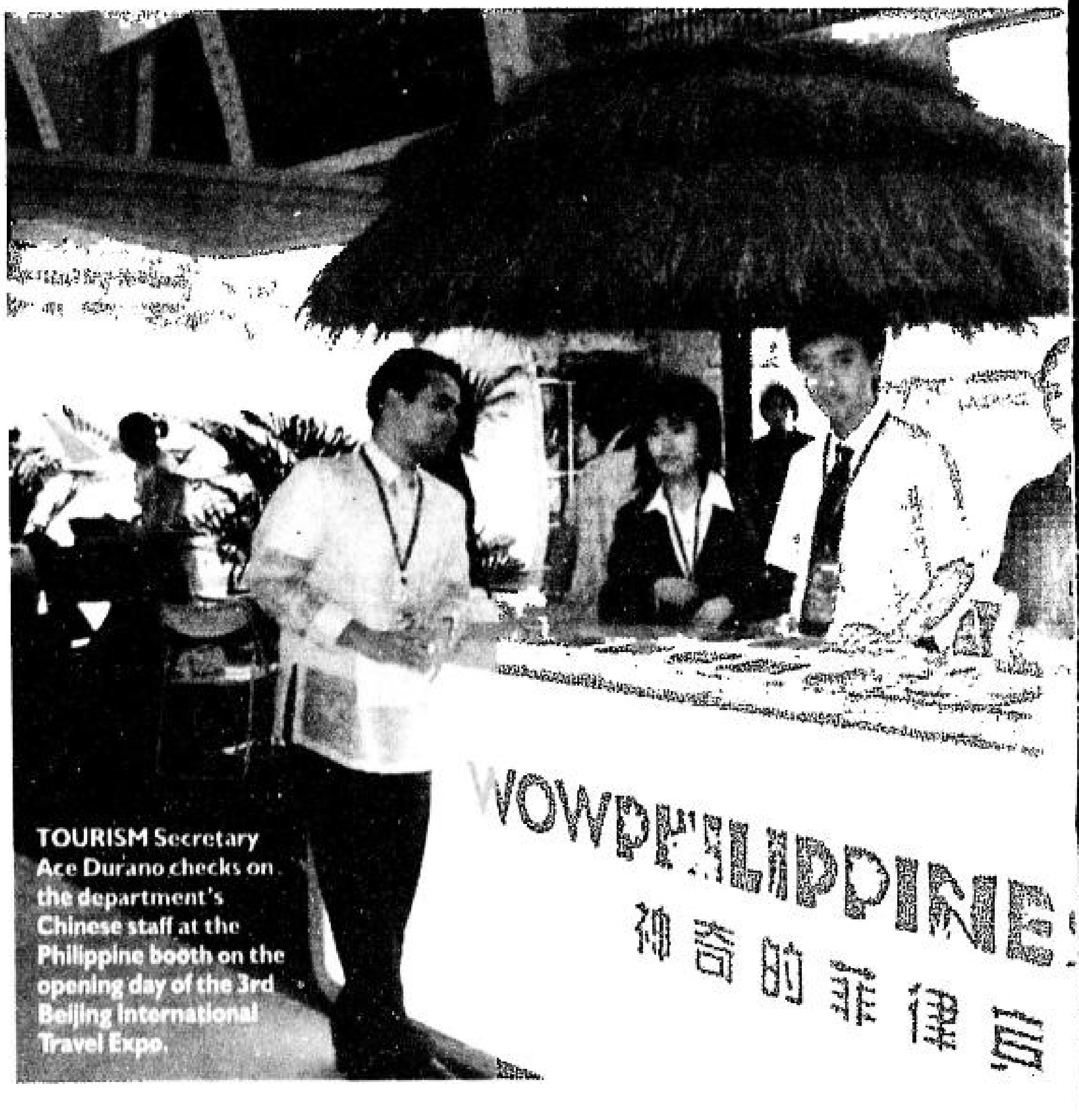


GUESTS of Marco Polo Xidan, Beijing, sample the county's gustatory delights like (from left) *leche flan*, tropical fruits, *mangga't bagoong* and *kilawin*, concocted by the chefs of Marco Polo Davao. A

Beijing, meet Davao

Text and photos by Cheche V. Moral



TOURISM Secretary Ace Durano checks on the department's Chinese staff at the Philippine booth on the opening day of the 3rd Beijing International Travel Expo.

ALL BASES WERE COVERED when the Philippines returned to China recently to make its pitch once again at the 3rd Beijing International Tourism Expo.

With inbound Chinese now venturing beyond their favored destinations in the Philippines—Pagsanjan and Tagaytay—and trooping farther into the islands for some sun-and-sand respite, the Department of Tourism felt emboldened to highlight a specific haunt on this trip, to woo not just holiday-makers but perhaps even investors.

Davao, the featured city, came prepared, with a 10-day Philippine food festival held at the Marco Polo Xidan, Beijing; a fashion and cultural show underscoring the province's ethnic roots and as a honeymoon destination; and a trade and investment presentation.

There's a justifiable reason for the department's optimism in this market. In 2004, China didn't even count among the Philippines' top 10 sources of tourist arrivals. By the following year, the DOT has surpassed its 70,000 Chinese arrival target, putting China on the No. 5 spot with over 107,000 tourists, many of whom were repeat visitors. In the first quarter of this year, arrivals from the Mainland already exceeded Taiwan, making China No. 4 on the list. The target figure is 350,000 tourists by 2010.

For this development the department largely credits its presence in Beijing with the establishment of a tourism office there two years earlier.

"[Chinese travel operators] are focused on profits," according to tourism attaché Jazmin Esguerra. "Once you assure them of that, they're really easy to deal with."

The Philippine embassy in Beijing is also working closely to complement the efforts of the tourism department. Incentives are awarded to specific tour groups, according to Ambassador Sonia Cataumber Brady. Visa applications can now also be downloaded from the Internet, and the Chinese enjoy a visa-upon-arrival scheme.

The envoy, whose last posting was Thailand, expressed her approval of the department's endeavors.

"You need money for what Thailand is doing," she said. "We don't have that... Let's make do with what we have. The government is doing its best."

Unlike in the previous year when the DOT introduced new campaign collaterals in the capital city—posters in bus stops, clips on video walls, billboards—Tourism Secretary Joseph "Ace" Durano this time focused on introducing new infrastructure available to Chinese travelers.

In his speech before travel operators, he also highlighted the shopping and entertainment destinations in Metro Manila and introduced the jeepney city tour. Dubbed "Hop In, Hop Off," the tour has two routes: the Manila loop that covers the new SM Mall of Asia, the Cultural Center, the Coconut Palace, the Walled City, Luneta; and the Makati loop that plies Ayala, The Fort, Tiendesitas and The Spa in Eastwood, Libis. A ride on one of these jeepneys costs around P150.

Most peaceful city

Davao, for its part, dwelled on stressing its being once awarded the "most peaceful city in Southeast Asia" and one of the "cleanest and greenest in the Philippines." The city at present enjoys good Korean and domestic tourist arrivals, according to Roberto Teo, head of the Davao Tourism and Investment Center.

The city mayor, Rodrigo Duterte, who was once described by Time magazine as "the punisher" for his iron-fist management style, was, however, prevented by his duties as head of the Presidential Anti-Terror Task Force to be on this trip. He was represented by Melchor Quitain, head of the city hall's legal department.

No matter, it seemed the Davao contingency did its best to make its presence felt in the historic Chinese capital.

On the invitation of the tourism attaché, Manila designer Renee Salud presented 25 pieces of T'Boli-inspired clothes, resortwear, contemporary evening gowns and bridal wear, at the expo and the Philippine Tourism Conference at the Marco Polo Xidan. The show aimed to highlight Davao's tribal past and modernity, according to Jackie Aquino, the show's director. The bridal wear, modeled by five Filipina beauty queens and two male models, emphasized Davao as a honeymoon destination. Performances by dancers of the Ramon Obusan Folkloric Group were interspersed with the runway presentations.

The three visiting Filipino chefs from Marco Polo Davao did more than introduce their Beijing sister hotel's guests to Philippine cuisine: The trip turned into an exchange of know-how with their Chinese counterparts.

"They have very interesting presentation, and the food is good," said Chef Swat, a sous chef at the Café Marco of the Xidan hotel. "I can see that our Chinese guests would love the desserts," he added, in reference to the buffet spread that included *leche flan, halo-halo, puto* and *suman*.

The grilled seafoods were a hit with the guests, which had a local-fish improvisation of Davao's famed tuna belly. The *kilawin* station had a similar response: the cooks from the South brought their own spin by mixing grilled pork and fresh fish.

The Davao chefs, however, had to make do with available ingredients to be faithful to the dishes' flavor. The Chinese soy sauce, they complained, were "mapakla" (acrid); the vinegar too sweetish for Filipino dishes.

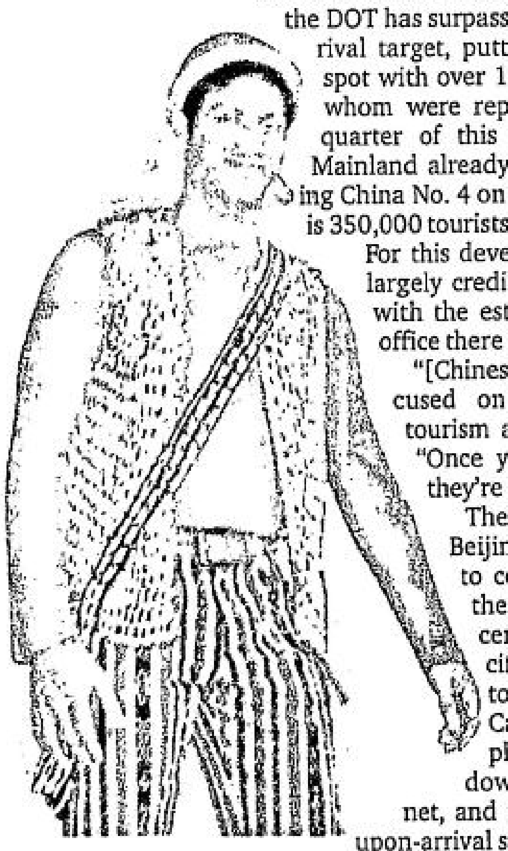
"If they want to serve our dishes here, they have to import the ingredients from us," Frederick Carcedo, a sous chef at the Davao hotel, said in Filipino. "After all, that's what we do when we hold international food fests back home; we import the ingredients. Only then can you get the real flavor."

The chef of Marco Polo's Chinese restaurant Lotus Court, for his part learned that dumplings are best boiled. "I realized that now, that when you steam a dumpling it shrinks," said Nestor Cubradilla. "Their dumplings are all fresh. It's like an assembly line, one is tasked to do each step. Even their dumpling wrappers are freshly made. When it's frozen it loses flavor."

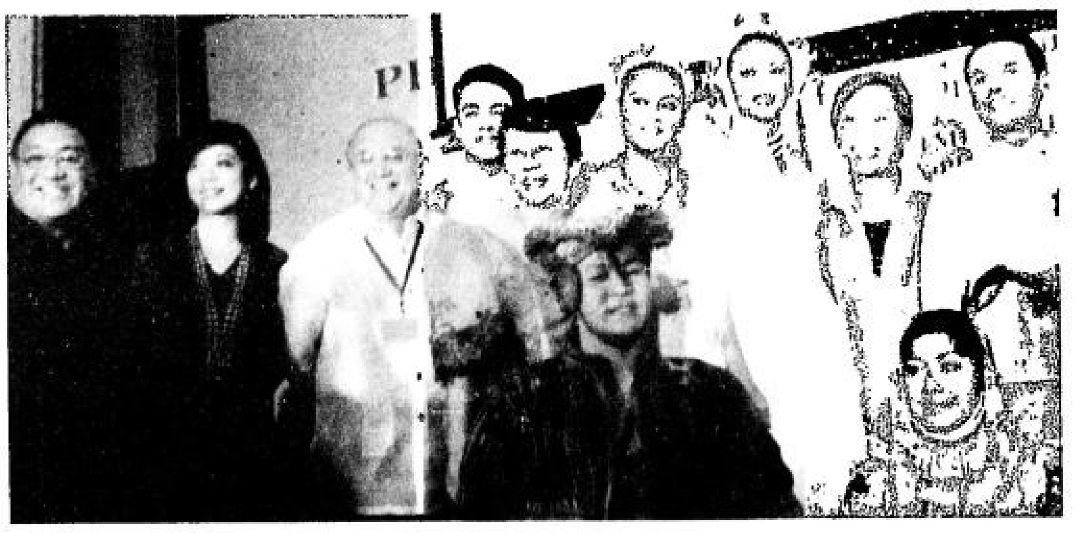
"We've had visiting chefs in Davao, but we've never gotten this kind of response," said Carcedo. "They're attentive and quite willing to learn. They're taking photos of the dishes... They didn't know that you need flame to make banana leaves supple. They like that the dishes are so flavorful."

Smiling people and good food are, of course, the winning ingredients to entice the Chinese to the islands. And the DOT is confident that in Beijing alone, there are enough tourists to go around.

E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph



FASHION and culture fest with Mindanao dances and costumes highlighting Davao's ethnic heritage, and as honeymooners' paradise



DURANO (far right) with (from left) director Jackie Aquino, Yvonne Villacorte of Marco Polo Davao, Tourism Assistant Secretary Edu Jarque, Ambassador Sonia C. Brady, models Ernesto Torrefiel, Patty Betita and Marina Benipayo, designer Renee Salud, and the Ramon Obusan dancers

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TRAVELBRIEFS

HK host families 'trained'

Workshops were held recently for 15 teams of Discover Hong Kong Year Family Ambassadors that will host families from overseas under the "My Hong Kong Family" program. Organized by the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB), the program encourages host families to share their passion for Hong Kong with families from 15 overseas markets in July, August, November and December.

FIFA finals broadcast

The FIFA World Cup Games Grand Finals will be broadcast live at the Hotel Philippine Plaza July 10. The party at Siete Pecados begins at 10 p.m. with live entertainment. Avail of the special promo and check in on Sunday for only P4,800 net. You could also avail of the FIFA room package at P7,740 net that includes, among others, breakfast and dinner for two at Spiral. Book one room and the next room is free of charge valid until July 10. Call 5515555 local 1991-1993.

FIREWORKS beside the famous Macau Tower

WORLD HERITAGE YEAR

Macau hosts the 10th International Youth Dance Festival July 8-14, and the 12th Asia Junior Athletics Championship, July 15-18, as part of the 2006 Macau World Heritage Year. The former Portuguese colony that is now a Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China, will then host the 18th ITU Macau International Triathlon, Aug. 6; and Macau FIBV Women's Volleyball World Grand Prix, Aug. 25-27.

Other events include the Dragonboat Race, Macau Grand Prix, Macau International Kart Prix, Fireworks Festival and Music Festival. Air Macau flies from Manila Monday, and Thursday-Saturdays, while Tiger Airways has daily flights out of Clark in Pampanga.

Call or visit the Macau Government Tourist Office-Philippines, Suite 11-D, Valero Tower, 122 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City, tels. 8122595 and 8130947 or log on to www.macautourism.gov.mo.

FAMILY WEEKEND PACKAGES

The Legend Villas in Pioneer corner Madison Streets, Mandaluyong City, is offering the Family Weekend Package. A family of four can pay as low as P2,750 net per night. The rate is valid for check-in on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and national holidays. Overnight accommodation in a Superior Room is for two adults and two children. Call 702-2700/04, fax 6389255/56, e-mail reservations@legendhotels.com.ph or visit www.legendhotels.com.ph.

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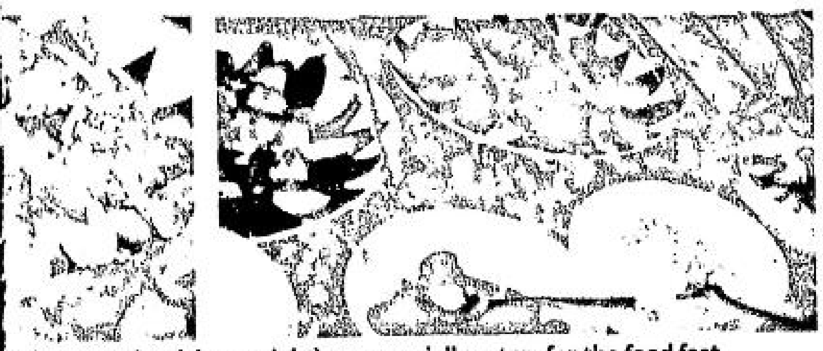
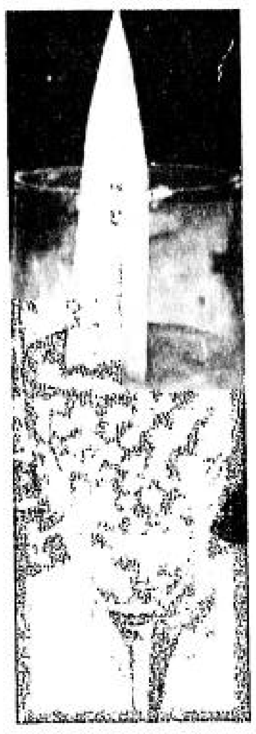
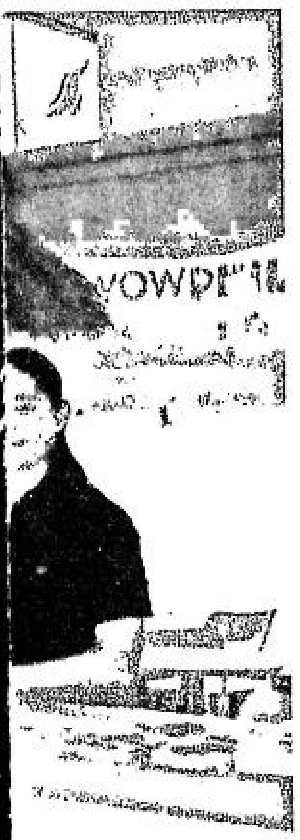


kilawin station (above, right) was specially set up for the food fest.

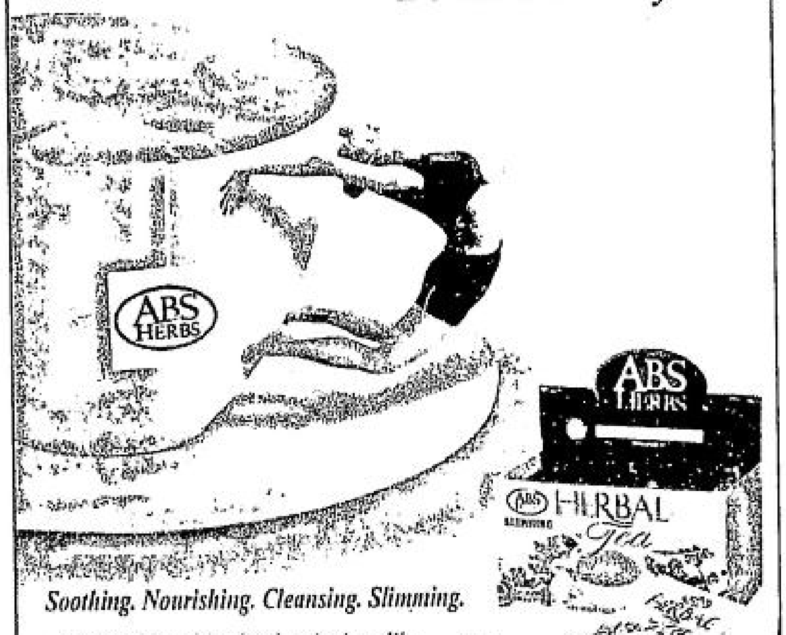


SAGO'T gulaman garnished with *pandan* leaf



CHINESE food servers in Mindanao costumes

The spotlight was on Mindanao's premiere city at the 3rd Beijing International Tourism Expo



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- 1.3 Megapixel Camera with 3x Digital Zoom, 4 Multishot
- Bluetooth Connection

EF51
- FM Radio, MP3/AAC/AAC+ Player with 6-Band Equalizer
- Speech-to-Music™ Voice-Operated Selection
- 3D Surround Speakers
- Expandable Memory
- With 128 MB miniSD™ card and Stereo Headset
- 262K Color Display
- 1.3 Megapixel Camera with 4x Digital Zoom
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E61
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www.BenQ-Siemens.com

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Thank God for the gift of a mother

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Josephine Darang

"*YENA*" IS YBANAG FOR "MOTHER" WHICH is why Roberto Cannu Caballero gave his book the title "Yena Tam Ngamin" of "a mother to us all."

Our Lady of Piat is the mother of Cagayan Valley. Tuguegarao Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan, in his foreword, recalls how the Itawes were converted when the image was brought in 1624 to Piat from Lalo-lo, seat of the archdiocese of Nueva Segovia then. Since then, the Itawes would not allow her to be parted from them.

Archbishop Talamayan wrote: "Countless miracles and prodigies have been attributed to her. At any day there will almost always be one or the other pilgrim from afar, devotedly lighting a candle, gazing lovingly at her revered image and thanking God profusely for some favor received through her prayers. We thank God for the gift of a Mother."

Cagayanos hold novena Masses in the Basilica of Piat from June 23-July 01 to prepare for her feast day on July 2. Her pilgrim image is brought to the different towns of Cagayan so her children can honor her and pray to her.

Cagayanos in Metro Manila gathered at the Kalayaan Hall of Club Filipino on July 2 for the Mass celebrated by Msgr. Nico Bautista, with Fr. Ben Arsenio and Fr. Felipe Gonzales. They sang with the Commission of Human Rights Choir invited by the Piat Legacy Foundation that published the book "Yena Tam Ngamin" in 2004 to mark the 400th anniversary of the arrival of Our Lady of Piat from Macau in 1604. Laywer Hesiquio Malillin is the current president.

On the first Saturday after July 2, the Nuestra Señora de Piat Foundation holds a special Mass at 8 a.m. in Sto. Domingo Church. The tradition was begun by Dr. Carolina Prada 35 years ago.

Yesterday, Maui Aglipay, wife of Gen. Edgardo Aglipay, organized the holding of the Mass because Dr. Prada had a stroke in April.

As part of its "Alay kay Maria" program, Radio Veritas is bringing the pilgrim image of Our Lady of Piat to St. Peter Parish on Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City. The Virgin will be there July 10-21.

Visit

During the fiesta, pilgrims come in buses and cars. Fr. Fredel Agatep, curator of the Museum of Piat, said those who cannot afford to stay in the Pilgrims' Inn bring their own bedding and sleep on the grounds of the basilica.

Belle Madamba and I were there June 28 and were able to catch the novena Mass. The Virgin was mounted on a *banca* and dressed in vestments made by Linda Estonactoc and donated by the Antonio Lim family of Aparri.

New church

We were blessed to have been able to visit the new church of San Lorenzo Ruiz in Aparri, Cagayan, inside the compound of the seminary. It was built after 13 years of persistent prayer and hard work by Fr. Joel Reyes and benefactors.

I started writing about the need for funds after my visit in 1993. It was a dream of Fr. Joel that would not go away. He was then rector of the St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary, which now has 15 seminarians studying philosophy.

Groundbreaking was in 1999 and the church was blessed on June 6. Felicidad Sy, wife of Henry Sy of Shoemart, donated the main altar and went personally to attend the blessing. People from Aparri and other towns go to this beautiful church for Sunday Masses.

Order of healers

Tuguegarao Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan founded the order of Eucharistic Healers of Mary whose charism was to take care of sick and elderly priests. Fr. Lorenzo Marzo is the first ordained priest. Now it has one deacon, five theology students, two philosophy students and one studying to be a brother.

The seminarians need benefactors to finish their studies. They are young men who want to give their lives to Christ. Please write Fr. Marzo at 43 Morning Star Drive, Sanville, Culiat, Quezon City, or text 0920-3131767.

You can also deposit your donations at BPI Savings 3373-1157-61 (Visayas Avenue branch). If you can spare rice or canned goods, please do so. Thank you for your kindness.

Pilgrimage

Ephesus is where John the Beloved brought Mary, the mother of Jesus, after the Ascension. It can be reached by driving from Istanbul in Turkey. In 1995, we visited the house of Mary and heard Mass celebrated by our chaplain, Fr. Roy Rosales. We cried when we sang the "*Ama Namin*" holding hands. We felt the presence of Mama Mary in that stone house where she stayed before she was assumed into Heaven.

Fr. Paul Marquez will lead pilgrims to Turkey and Greece on Sept. 21. In Istanbul are the St. Sophia Church, the magnificent Byzantine church; the Blue Mosque that dates back to the 17th century; and the Hippodrome, former center of sports and political activities. Call Ephesus Travel and Tours at 5271251 or 5265211.

Help needed

In Barangay Pattao in Buguey, Cagayan Valley, is the small church of St. Vincent Ferrer. People go there for the healing Masses of Fr. Celso Lagasca, a devotee of the saint. Fr. Celso is having a life-size image of St. Vincent Ferrer made, as the one at the altar is too small and can hardly be seen. The barrio folk are poor. Those who wish to help can text Fr. Celso at 0918-9927492.

Prayers

After I wrote about the kids at Ephesus House praying for your intentions, Mario Somera received at least 40 text messages. Those who need prayers can text 0917-8176919.

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Email us at customercare@smart.com.ph or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

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SUNDAY, JULY 9, 2006

Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
A Global Corporation with a Global Mindset and a Filipino Heart

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
ITB NO.: 06-07-2006

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites manufacturers / dealers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : Supply and Delivery of various Gaming Chips

Approved Budget : One Hundred Eighty Four Thousand Thirty Six & 64/100 Dollars (US$ 184,036.64)

Source of Fund : Internally Funded

Only suppliers duly registered with PAGCOR shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered suppliers must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila., Tel. No. 526-0573.

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/ Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	July 6, 2006 – July 28, 2006
2. Pre-Bid Conference	July 17, 2006 (2 pm)
3. Submission of Bids	July 31, 2006 (2 pm)
4. Opening of Bid	July 31, 2006 (2 pm onwards)

Bid documents will be available to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of ***Ninety Two & 02/100 Dollars (US$ 92.02) or Five Thousand One Hundred Ninety Nine & 03/100 Pesos (Php 5,199.03)***. In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the BAC Secretariat.

PAGCOR assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

PAGCOR reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Please address all communications to the BAC Secretariat Unit, Procurement & Property Department.

(Sgd) RAFAEL A. FRANCISCO
Chairperson, BAC 4

(PDI-July 9 & 16, 2006)

PAMPANGA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

GUAGUA, PAMPANGA

June 2, 2006

INVITATION TO BID

PAMPANGA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (PELCO II) WITH OFFICE ADDRESS AT SAN ROQUE, GUAGUA, PAMPANGA IS INVITING INTERESTED BIDDERS FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF THE FOLLOWING PACKAGES:

PACKAGE 1:
Transformer, Distribution 7620/13200, 220 volts

25 KVA	-	20 units
37.5 KVA	-	20 units
50 KVA	-	20 units

PACKAGE 2:
Conductor, ACSR Bare

#2	-	10,000 meters
#1/0	-	100,000 meters
#2/0	-	25,000 meters
#3/0	-	25,000 meters
#4/0	-	25,000 meters
Conductor, ACSR Polytheline #1/0	-	15,000 meters
Conductor, ACSR Duplex #6	-	50,000 meters
TW Wire #1/0 Copper	-	5 rolls
TW Wire #2 Copper	-	5 rolls
TW Wire #4	-	5 rolls
TW Wire #6 Copper	-	15 rolls
TW Wire #8 Copper	-	15 rolls
THHN #12 Stranded Copper	-	20 rolls

PACKAGE 3:
Assorted Pole Line Hardwares, Insulators, Fuse Links, Connectors and Fuse Cut-Outs with L.A.
(Note: Detailed items and quantity are specified on bidding documents)

You are therefore invited to submit your bids/proposals to the PBAC and participate in a sealed bidding on July 14, 2006 (Friday), 10:30 A.M. at PELCO II Board Room San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga wherein your bid will be opened in your presence or that of your representatives. Late submission and/or incomplete bid documents shall not be accepted. Before the bidding proper there will be an orientation scheduled on July 11, 2006, 10:00 A.M. at PELCO II Board Room.

REQUEST FURTHER TO INCLUDE IN YOUR SEALED BIDS/PROPOSALS ASIDE FROM THE BID AMOUNT, THE TERMS OF PAYMENT AND AVAILABILITY OF STOCKS. THE BID BOND IS EITHER IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TWO AND ONE HALF PERCENT (2.5%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE OR SURETY BOND (W/ O.R.) EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE. ALL BIDDERS ARE REQUESTED TO BE AT PELCO II BOARD ROOM AT EXACTLY 10:30 A.M. TO SECURE BID DOCUMENTS AND FURTHER CLARIFICATION PLEASE CONTACT OR VISIT PBAC CHAIRMAN ENGR. RAUL L. CANLAS, TEL. NO. (045) 900-2650 OR MR. NEIL S. ISIP AT (045) 901-0864-65.

LATE SUBMISSION OF BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. THE PBAC HAS THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS THAT DO NOT COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS, WAIVE ANY INFORMALITY IN THE PROPOSAL RECEIVED AND TO ACCEPT SUCH MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE COOPERATIVE.

(Sgd.) ENGR. RAUL L. CANLAS
PBAC Chairperson

Noted by:

(Sgd.) MR. SULPICIO C. LAGARDE JR.
General Manager

(PDI-July 9 & 10, 2006)

Supreme Court
Manila

Bids and Awards Committee
for the Action Program for Judicial Reform

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Supreme Court of the Philippines and the Philippine Judicial Academy (PHILJA), through Bids and Awards Committee for the Action Program for Judicial Reform (BACAPJR), as a result of the failure of the first bidding conducted, now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent from potential bidders to apply for eligibility and short listing and if, found eligible and short listed, to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	:	Detailed Architectural and Engineering Design for the Expansion (Renovation and Construction) of the PHILJA Development Center in Tagaytay City
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	:	P 13,903,450.00 Consultancy fee
Source of Funding	:	Grant Assistance from the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) and the Japan Non-Project Grant Assistance Counter Value Fund (JNPGA-CVF)
Contract Duration	:	Six (6) months for Design Development Phase Twelve (12) months for Contract Supervision

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening of the financial proposals.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR-A) of R.A. 9184, and is restricted to Filipino citizens or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines. All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of the Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. No. 9184 and its IRR-A. The contract will be awarded to the Highest Rated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

The process for the eligibility check is described in the Eligibility Documents. Eligibility of prospective bidders shall be checked using the non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. A prospective bidder should have a minimum of one (1) relevant project of similar scope and nature implemented in the last five years. Shortlisting of eligible consultants will be based on the following criteria: Experience of the Firm and current workload relative to capacity (65%), Experience and Expertise of Personnel (35%). A maximum of seven (7) eligible bidders shall make up the shortlist. Only those that are short listed will be entitled to submit bids.

The evaluation procedure to be adopted shall be Quality-Cost Based Evaluation procedure. Bids whose technical proposal passes the minimum technical rating of 70% shall have its financial proposal opened and evaluated. The technical proposal shall carry 80% weight while the financial proposal shall have a 20% weight.

The schedule of activities is as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Submission of Letter of Intent and Application for Eligibility	July 21, 2006 not later than 4:00 p.m.
2. Submission of Eligibility Requirements	July 31, 2006
3. Pre-bid Conference	August 28, 2006
4. Submission and Opening of Bids	September 11, 2006

The Eligibility Documents will be available upon submission of the Letter of Intent and Application for Eligibility, either by personal delivery, mail or facsimile at the address stated below, not later than 4:00 p.m., of July 21, 2006:

BAC-APJR SECRETARIAT
c/o Engr. Nestor U. Venturillo
6th floor, Supreme Court Centennial Building
Padre Faura St., Ermita, Manila
Tel. No. (632) 5529584; Fax No. (632) 5528586
E-mail: Nestor_venturillo@supremecourt.gov.ph

Interested consultants may obtain further information from the BAC-APJR Secretariat.

The Supreme Court and the PHILJA reserves the right to reject documents which do not comply with the requirements and reject any and all bids, annul the bidding process, or not award the contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) JOSE P. PEREZ
Deputy Court Administrator
and Vice-Chairperson BAC-APJR

(PDI-July 9, 2006)

Municipal Government of Gloria

Contract Reference Number 2006-INFR-01
Name of the Contract Construction of Gloria Municipal Public Market
Location of the Contract Maligaya/Poblacion, Gloria, Oriental Mindoro

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The ***Municipal Government of Gloria, Oriental Mindoro***, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Contract	***Construction of Gloria Municipal Public Market***
Location	***Maligaya/Poblacion, Gloria, Oriental Mindoro***
Brief Description	***Construction of Concrete & Structural Steel One (1) Storey Market Building with Sixty Five (65) Stalls, Comfort Room, Administration Office, Power House & Drainage System***
Approved Budget For the Contract (ABC)	***PhP 22,400,000.00***
Contract Duration	***Nine (9) months***

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the execution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statements and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

BAC Activities	*Schedule*
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	July 18-24, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	July 18-24, 2006
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	July 18-24, 2006
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	July 25-August 8, 2006
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	August 9-September 26, 2006
6. Pre-Bid Conference	September 19, 2006
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	September 26, 2006, 10:00 a.m.

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility forms at the ***Office of the Municipal Mayor, Gloria, Oriental Mindoro*** upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of Two Thousand Pesos (PhP 2,000.00) to the Treasurer of the Municipal Government of Gloria, Oriental Mindoro. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Thousand Pesos (PhP 5,000.00) to the Treasurer of the ***Municipal Government of Gloria, Oriental Mindoro***.

The ***Municipal Government of Gloria, Oriental Mindoro*** assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) CELSO S. SEMILLA, JR.
Chairman, BAC

(PDI-July 9 & 14, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
City Of Sipalay
Province of Negros Occidental

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Date: July 9, 2006
Contract ID No.: SP-073-IN-01 to 02
World Bank Loan No: 446PH

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of Local Government Finance and Development and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for the ***Construction of School Buildings***. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits*.

2. The ***City Government of Sipalay*** invites sealed bids from eligible sources for the ***Construction of School Buildings*** at the following sites:

PACKAGE A

Bunga-Bunga E/S *Brgy. Canturay*
1-unit, 1-storey, 2CL
1-unit, Comfort Room
1-unit, Elevated Water Tank

GMNHS Binulig Extn. *Brgy. San Jose*
1-unit, 1-storey, 2CL
1-unit, Comfort Room
1-unit, Elevated Water Tank

Gil Montilla E/S *Brgy. Gil Montilla*
1-unit, 1-storey, 4CL
1-unit, Comfort Room
1-unit, Elevated Water Tank

Canturay E/S *Brgy. Canturay*
1-unit, 1-storey, 6CL
1-unit, Comfort Room
1-unit, Elevated Water Tank

GMNHS Main Campus *Brgy. Gil Montilla*
1-unit, 2-storey, 8CL
1-unit, Elevated Water Tank

PACKAGE B

Tanduay E/S *Brgy. Camindangan*
1-unit, 1-storey, 2CL
1-unit, Comfort Room
1-unit, Elevated Water Tank

Cambogui-ot E/S *Brgy. Camindangan*
1-unit, 1-storey, 2CL
1-unit, Comfort Room
1-unit, Elevated Water Tank

Barasbarasan E/S *Brgy. Manlucahoc*
1-unit, 1-storey, 2CL
1-unit, Comfort Room
1-unit, Elevated Water Tank

GMNHS Camindangan Extn. *Brgy. Camindangan 1-unit, 1-storey, 4CL*
1-unit, Comfort Room
1-unit, Elevated Water Tank

Camindangan E/S *Brgy. Camindangan*
1-unit, 2-storey, 8CL
1-unit, Elevated Water Tank

3. Bidding documents may be purchased starting ***July 10, 2006 during office hours at the BAC Office, Sipalay City Hall, Negros Occidental*** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00)*** or its equivalent in a freely-convertible currency, for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.

4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ***ninety (90) days*** after bid opening and must be accompanied by bid security for the following packages: ***PACKAGE A – Four Hundred Twenty Thousand Pesos (Php 420,000.00)*** and ***PACKAGE B – Three Hundred Seventy Thousand Pesos (Php 370,000.00)*** in a form of cash, certified check, bank guarantee or its equivalent in a convertible currency and shall be delivered to the ***BAC Secretariat, Office of the City Treasurer, Sipalay City Hall, Negros Occidental*** on or before ***10:00 A.M. of August 8, 2006*** at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

5. A pre-bid conference will be held on ***July 26, 2006; 10:00 A.M, at the Office of the City Mayor, Sipalay City Hall, Negros Occidental.***

(Sgd.) RENATO P. MANILLA
BAC Chairman

(PDI-July 9, 2006)

STRUCTURAL / MECHANICAL ENGINEER

- Must have a minimum 5 years experience on Structural Design or Mechanical Design work with a full knowledge in Auto Cad application
- Previous experience in material handling equipment/cranes is an advantage.
- Must be able to work with minimum supervision
- Experience on resolving technical problems during manufacturing

Interested applicants may send comprehensive resumé to:

ELECTRUCK PACIFIC, INC.
Bldg. 3 Rivera Pt., SRF Compound,
Subic Bay Freeport Zone 2222
Tel. No. 047-252-6332/34/36
Email: episubic@info.com.ph

Philippine International Trading Corporation
PITC

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE IMPORTATION OF SPECIAL RICE VARIETIES

The **Philippine International Trading Corporation (PITC)** invites all interested Farmers Cooperatives / Groups / Associations / Private Rice Traders with valid and updated NFA Business License to submit Letters of Intent (LOIs) on or before 21 July 2006 for the importation of 15,000 MT Fancy / Premium / Glutinous Rice Varieties in bags.

Minimum volume to be allocated per qualified participant shall be 500 MT but not to exceed 1,000 MT. Should the total quantity received from LOIs submitted exceed 15,000 MT, the allocation per importer shall be adjusted on a pro-rata basis.

The Terms of Reference and Guidelines/Mechanics will be available for issuance during office hours starting 10 July 2006, weekdays only, from Imports Department at the 10th Floor, NDC Building, 116 Tordesillas Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City and with telephone nos. 892-1560, 892-1627, and 818-9801 locals 421, 393 and 334.

(Sgd.) **MARIO M. LEYGO**
Vice President

(PDI-July 9 & 16, 2006)

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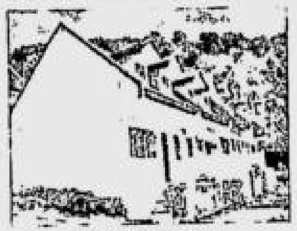
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- He must have at least 5 years hands-on experience as Park Manager or Administrator of a memorial park, industrial or technology park or a big first-class subdivision.
- He must have been exposed to grounds keeping and maintenance, including garbage collection, formulation & implementation of park rules and regulations, dormitory or staff house facilities, security, shuttle bus service, community relations and other park operations.

COST ACCOUNTANTS

- Male, 25-32 years old; graduate of B.S. Accountancy (pref. CPA).
- Candidate must have excellent exposure on cost accounting. Must be highly computer literate and with good interpersonal and communication skills.

FOR INTERESTED & QUALIFIED APPLICANTS, PLS. SEND COMPREHENSIVE RESUME TO:

tink.shelley@gmail.google.com

*** We will reply only to shortlisted candidates.**

Standard Form Number SF-GOOD-05
Revised on July 28, 204

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LA UNION
City of San Fernando

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF LA UNION**, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder contract:

NAME OF CONTRACT	LOCATION	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (P)	CONTACT DURATION
1. DRUGS & MEDICINES	Provincial Capitol Bldg., City of San Fernando, La Union	Purchases of Drugs & Medicines, Medical/Surgical, Laboratory, Dental, X-Ray Supplies	7,027,844.29	180CD
2. MEDICAL/SURGICAL			3,971,608.27	180CD
3. LABORATORY SUPPLIES			1,475,244.00	180CD
4. DENTAL SUPPLIES			49,050.00	180CD
5. X-RAY SUPPLIES			507,060.00	180CD

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 2 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities		*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents		July 12, 2006
2. Pre-Bid Conference		July 17, 2006, 9:00 A.M., Diego Silang Hall, Capitol Bldg., SFC
3. Opening of Bids	a. Drugs & Medicines	July 26, 2006, 9:00 A.M., Diego Silang Hall, Capitol Bldg., SFC
	b. Medical/Surgical Supplies	July 27, 2006, 9:00 A.M., Diego Silang Hall, Capitol Bldg., SFC
	c. Laboratory Supplies	July 28, 2006, 9:00 A.M., Diego Silang Hall, Capitol Bldg., SFC
	d. Dental Supplies	July 28, 2006, 1:00 P.M., Diego Silang Hall, Capitol Bldg., SFC
	e. X-Ray Supplies	July 28, 2006, 1:00 P.M., Diego Silang Hall, Capitol Bldg., SFC
4. Bid Evaluation		July 31-Aug. 14, 2006
5. Post-Qualification		July 31-Aug. 14, 2006
6. Notice of Award		July 31-Aug. 14, 2006

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Drugs and Medicines = P2,500.00; Medical/Surgical Supplies = P1,500.00; Laboratory Supplies = P1,000.00; Dental Supplies = P500.00 and X-Ray Supplies = P500.00 to the Office of the Provincial Treasurer's Cashier.

The **PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF LA UNION** assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) DR. GEOFFREY S. TILAN
BAC Chairman

(PDI – July 9 & 15, 2006)

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July 14, FRIDAY, 2:30 pm
July 17, MONDAY, 2:30 pm CHOWKING, 2/F SM FAIRVIEW Fairview, Quezon City
July 15, SATURDAY, 2:30 pm, JOLLIBEE BATANGAS P.Burgos cor. D. Silang St., Batangas City

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E-mail OSAC@boi.gov.ph Homepage http://www.boi.gov.ph
Cable address: INVESTBOARD P.O. Box 1872 Makati

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **PHILIPPINE GAMING MANAGEMENT CORPORATION** is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as **New IT Service Firm in the field of an Application Service Provider on a Pioneer Status** with project/plant site located at **29th Floor Rufino Pacific Building, 6784 Ayala Avenue corner V.A. Rufino Street, Makati City.**

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) RUDY B. CAÑA
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI July 9, 2006)

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From:
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Republic of the Philippines
City Government of Zamboanga
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
City Hall, Zamboanga City
Tel. No. (062) 992-7763

Solicitation No. Goods 06-0703-196

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Motor Vehicles
(Name of Project)

Asian Utility Vehicles Van Type et. al...
(Brief Description of GOODS)

1. The City Government of Zamboanga through the General Fund 2006 intend to apply the sum of FIVE MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED FIFTEEN THOUSAND PESOS (P5,815,000.00) ONLY being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract Motor Vehicles (PR No. 100-06-06-1322). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening
2. The City Government of Zamboanga now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for Asian Utility Vehicles, Van Type, et. al... Delivery of the GOODS is required for Ten (10) working days. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the law or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from City Government of Zamboanga - Procurement, Acquisition and Award Division and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm starting July 03 to July 17, 2006.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of P1,600.00. The method of payment will be Cash payable to the City Treasurers Office. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative
6. The City Government of Zamboanga will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on July 5, 2006; 10:00 AM at the City Engineers Conference Room.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 10:00 AM July 17, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of Check, Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Manager's Check payable to the City Treasurer, Bank Draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit and in the amount of P58,150.00 or Bank Guarantee in the amount of P87,225.00 or Surety Bond in the amount of P145,375.00 or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted
8. Bid opening shall be on JUly 17, 2006 at 10:00 AM in the City Engineers Conference Room, City Hall, Z.C. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. To be delivered in the Office of City Mayor.
10. The City Government of Zamboanga reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

Procurement, Acquisition & Award Division
Milagros W.S. Saavedra
City Hall, N.S. Valderosa St., Z.C.
Telefax 992-7763 or 991-0862

(Sgd.) MARIO D. ARRIOLA (DVM)
BAC Chairman

(PDI – July 3 & 9 2006)

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- At least 3 years in the memorial park industry
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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

IRENE BAUTISTA

This is to inform the public that the above person is no longer connected with **(FMEI) Fernando Medical Enterprises, Inc.** effective **June 28, 2006.**

Any transaction made or entered into after said date shall not be binding or honored.

(PDI – July 9, 2006)

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RIZAL SAN MATEO BANKERS 240m² 5000/M² 941-7706

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MEDICAL PLAZA ORTIGAS 40-75sqm 6870312 ; 6673226

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COLUMBARY GARDEN VAULTS In Visayas Avenue, Q.C. 0918-8491952

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B-New Don Antonio / Sikatuna 3br QC 0917-7956595 931-4418 Rina

EISENHOWER GHILLS P11T 7267615 / 09062864175

G'HILLS STD P10T 726-7615

•Legaspi VIII-Winsor Tower• 2BR w/prkg 15T+ 0916-7855507

MALAYAN STD 18T 1BR 28T PARC RYL 1BR 25T 4121825 Philand 1br16T 09177914366

OHT-3 Unit 17H 2BR Furnish Eastwood City Libis QC 633-0164

Pacific Plce Fur 0928-3900235

PENHURST THE FORT 3BR FFurn 2parkings 687-0312

ROCKWELL 2BR FF 722-2222

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2. **STORE SPACES WAREHOUSES**
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   Alabang-Zapote Rd.,
   Las Piñas
3. **CHEMICAL TANKS**
   Bauan, Batangas

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APARTMENT

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1082 P. Campa corner J. Barlin near UST Cntrl Mkt good for Res / Comm'l 721-7657 ; 0927-8819602

2400B Laura St Pandacan 8T /mo. Alan 8184277/5232290

2br2tb P7,500 Proj8 4530359

3BR 2TB Grg T896-6749

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Kamias QC 9218785

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MALE nr ANONAS 09176264528

Mkti nr Ayala 1T Lady 8974697

New Lady Bdspaces Avalble Call 8435555 or 09178986809

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ORTIGAS CENTER 56/100/250 500sqm 687-0312 ; 667-3226

UNION BANK PLAZA 174sqm Ortigas Center Call 687-0312

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97 Civic VTI A/T 248K Neg 7477382

BENZ '86 124 BODY 210,000 Black, Owner Leaving 0919-3416870 • 926-5052

F 150 LAURIAT 4X4 AT BLACK NOV 2000 450K 0920-9506233

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'03 Toyota Altis E
AT - A1 condition
Silver 56K Mileage,
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Buyers only,
0920-9080319

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★Cheap Van 9330311★

LUZVIMIN MB100 913-2084

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FOR SALE SOFT ICE CREAM MACHINE SANI-SERVE 3- NOOZLE 8422765 09217514497

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1% Car Lending 6560140 United Tree Car Loan Corp.

1% CARLOAN 373-6519

1% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1% EASY CARLOAN 8997759

1% Sangla ur Car 5344441

1% w/out taking car 5315577

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% easy carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% W/O TAKING CAR 7880183-84

2% W/O TAKING CAR 7723810/12

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/out taking car 7262780

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BILLIARDS

B'LIARD TBLE 33T-UP 8014494

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

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HELENE AT TEL. # 752-8323 or
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DOG TRAINER 0919-7219020

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Deed of Extra-Judicial Settlement of ARSENIO SY SANTOS SR Estate among the heirs under Doc No 479 Page 97 Book 98 Registry of Atty Patricio Boncayao Jr. Of Muntilupa City (PDI-July 2,9&16,2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late DAVIDSON ABAYON was extrajudicially settled by the heirs as per Doc#202 Page#336 Book#75 series of 2006 by Notary Public Atty. Lope M. Velasco of Makati City.
(PDI-July 2, 9 & 16, 2006)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice is hereby Given that the Estate of the late GUALBERTO DELA PENA MIRANDA was Extrajudicially settled among his Heirs on Jan 12 2006 Pr Doc No.108 Page No 23 Book No 1 Series of 2006 Under Notary Public Atty Tomas S. Macasaet (PDI July 9,16 &23,2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late JULIA B. PIMENTEL was extrajudicially settled by her heirs on April 20, 2006, per Doc No. 003499, Series of 2006 and JULIETA PIMENTEL PINEDA before Marina Lourdes C. Legaspi, Consul of the Philippines in New York, USA; and before Patrick John V. Hidalgo, Consul of the Philippines in Illinois, USA, by Aurora Pimentel and Gloria Pimentel, who are residents of Chicago, Illinos,USA.
(PDI-July 2, 9 & 16, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of the late FRANCISCO R. CLEMENTE who died in Milwaukee,-State of Wisconsin,USA,on February 21,1970,has been settled estrajudicially among his heirs in an EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH WAIVER AND/OR QUITCLAIM,dated March 2006,pursuant to section1,Rule 74 of the Rules of Court,and acknowledged before the Philippine Consulate in Chicago USA,before Consul Patrick John U. Hilado,on April 25,2006
(PDI- June 25,July 2&9'06)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Sps. EDGARDO VERA ENRIQUEZ & THELMA RAMOS PALOMAR-ENRIQUEZ was extrajudicially settled by the heirs as per Doc#378 Page#VIII Book#262 series of 2005 by Notary Public Atty. Antonio K. Resurreccion of Obando, Bulacan.
(PDI July 2, 9 & 16, 2006)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Club Filipino Membership Cert #2353 in the name of Lourdes D. Gutierrez. If no contest received, new cerificate will be issued. (PDI-July 9, 16 & 23, 2006)

Notice is given that MWC Stk Cert. #004851 in the name of Demosthenes &/or Michaelangelo &/or Michelle Du is lost. If no contest received, new cert. will be issued. (July 2,9&16,2006)

Notice is hereby given that the following FMF Development Corp. stock certificate no. 19798 & 19799 issued to CECILIA A. LLAMAS was reported lost. If no contest is received, new certificates will be issued.
(PDI- July 9, 16 & 23, 2006)

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

RUSH SALE OWNER LEAVING Laundry Shop Baguio City 6yrs old Estab Customers 09064941635 ; 09178171335

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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MESSENGERS COLLECTORS
CALL BETY 9266216/9254427

NEWLY ARRIVED PROV'L & CITY ALL AROUND MAIDS MIDWIFE YAYA COOK LABA SCREENED W/CLEAR CALL; RUBY 873-5062•8737055

OFFICE CLERK / SECRETARY OPTOMETRIST Call 934-0035

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Sewers Subcon Finishers Ofc Staff Call 927-6197

THAI CHEF Pref Filipino for Tagaytay Restaurant • Call or Txt 0920-9458503

TRUCK DRIVER, HELPER MECHANIC -with valid license, -male at least coll. grad. Bring biodata. Apply in person Ortigas Ext. Ave., J.Garcia Youngtown Ave., Cainta Rizal • 656-3420

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SALES LADY
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FREE CAREGIVER COURSE 5280722 5280730 3026893

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The John Bosco HS reunion in Cebu

The John Bosco High School Batch '76 of Mangagoy, Bislig City, Surigao del Sur, will be having a reunion on July 28-30 at the Cebu White Sands Resort.

Reminisce the past and expect a lot of fun and activities as the '76 batch will be having games, raffles, photo presentation, city tour, and a mass celebration.

For details, call Leo Montenegro (09163423417) Bebing Estrella-Laput (09182349817) Ping de la Cruz (09172025308), Luz de Guzman-Villanueva (09178865260), Babes Good (09189074817), Bessie Good (09195163281) and Ben Maata (09189141451).

Please confirm attendance on or before July 15, 2006.

APOLOGY

CHRISTOPHER B. SALONGA and **JUAN MIGUEL G. LAZARO** respectfully convey their sincere and humble apologies to **GLENN YASAY** and **OSCAR YASAY** and the rest of the **YASAY CLAN** of Opol, Misamis Oriental for all the injury, damage and prejudice that they have caused as a result of the unfortunate incident which occurred at the former Pravda Bar in Reposo Street, Makati City on the night of 17 August 2002.

GLENN YASAY, **OSCAR YASAY** and the rest of the the **YASAY CLAN** through the undersigned counsel, hereby accept their apology. With the foregoing apology and acceptance, any conflict between the parties that may have arisen out of the said incident is finally resolved.

ATTY. GODOFREDO D. LINAAC
Counsel for the Yasay Family
3rd Floor, P&L Bldg., 116 Legazpi Street,
Legazpi Village, 1229 Makati City

(PDI - July 9, 2006)

The Department of Trade and Industry

Announcement

This is to inform the public of a real estate development project in China, specifically in Nanning City, Guangxi Autonomous Region, which will be opened for participation to a Philippine or Philippine-registered company.

The project is called the China-ASEAN International Business Park, and the portion open for commercial/residential development by a private Philippine or Philippine registered company measures 40,000 square meters. Nanning City will offer preferential policies and terms to the developer that will be chosen by the People's Government of Nanning City to undertake the project.

This project will be undertaken in contract between the Nanning City-selected Philippine developer and the People's Government of Nanning City. The role of DTI's limited to:

- Making public this project opportunity and inviting interested parties to apply thru DTI;
- Collating the application documents submitted and forwarding the names and details of all applicants that meet the requirements to Nanning City, for the latter's final selection and approval.

Information on this project, including the English translated invitation letter issued by the Nanning Government, is available at the Department of Trade and Industry website: www.business.gov.ph

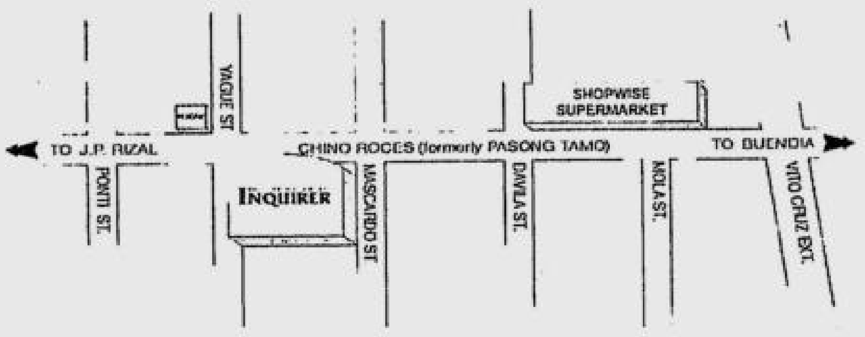
All companies interested to participate should submit the following documents to the Foreign Trade Service Corps (FTSC) of the Department of Trade and Industry (attention: Mr. Rene Queroda, 3rd Floor, DTI International Building, 375 Senator Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, Telephone No.: 897-9661, 897-9672, 897-9659) **no later than 5:00 PM, Friday, 21 July 2006:**

a. Letter of Intent to Participate
b. Corporate Profile
c. SEC Registration Certificate (certified true copy)
d. Business Information Report on the company from CIBI (2/F CIBI Information Center, 3308 Corner Zapote and Mascardo Sts., Makati City, Telephone No.: 899-0015, email: cibi-info@cibi.net.ph or D & B (Dun and Bradstreet; D & Bs contact info: Telephone No.: 892-5658, BusDev Officer, Mr. Justin Dela Paz, email: custcare@dnb.com.ph.

(PDI—July 7 & 9, 2006)

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS MAIN OFFICE

CHINO ROCES AVE. COR. YAGUE & MASCARDO STS., MAKATI CITY
Call LIWAY, ERIC or VINCENT at TEL. NO.: 897-8808 (Trunk Line)



People, Events & Products

RP among many countries Isuzu dominates in 2005

THE PHILIPPINES was one of the 22 countries in the world in which commercial vehicles by Isuzu Motors Limited topped their respective classes in 2005. The report is based on international sales figures gathered by the vehicle maker famous for excellent diesel engines.

Over here, according to the report, Isuzu Philippines Corp ruled in the one-ton pickup category by cornering 35 percent of the market. IPC also sold the most number of light-duty and medium-duty trucks (69 percent of the market) and commercial vehicles that weigh at least 18 tons, with 73 percent.

The other countries on the list include Japan (38 percent of two- to three-ton cab-over trucks); Thailand (38 percent of one-ton pickups and 37 percent in commercial vehicles); United States (73 percent of Classes 3 and 4 of imported cab-over trucks); and Australia (22 percent of commercial vehicles that weigh at least four tons).

Incidentally, in the above-mentioned categories in the five countries, Isuzu had reigned supreme for five consecutive years in Japan; 10 consecutive years in one-ton pickups and 23 consecutive years in commercial vehicles in Thailand; 20 consecutive years in the United States; 17 consecutive years in Australia; and seven consecutive years in the light duty truck category in the Philippines.

Isuzu's dominance in these countries proves the universal appeal of the diesel expert's dependable commercial vehicles. Geographical locations and cultural peculiarities may produce different transportation requirements, but Isuzu manages to serve as the common denominator for these diverse needs.

MIRANT PHILIPPINES CHAIR AT ANNUAL SHAREHOLDERS MEET

Mirant Corp chair and chief executive Edward Muller (left) welcomes JP Leviste Jr (right), newly appointed chair, president and chief executive officer of Mirant Philippines Corp during his attendance of Mirant's annual shareholders' meeting at the company's headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia. In the background is Mirant's electricity and gas trading floor.

'Aesthetic 2006' at The Manila Hotel

STRESS, NATIONAL CRISES, the dizzying modernity—the hazards of today has made people forget health in their earthy and wonderful ways. Thus, we're taking the next right step.

In the spirit of reviving the enthusiasm for that natural vigor to cope with everyday tension, Gait & Prance Events and Talents Management in collaboration with the Manila Hotel, Nesvita Calcium Plus, Nesvita Pro-Heart, Nesvita Non-Fat Milk, and Meadows Day Spa & Skin Clinic, bring forth the first "Aesthetic 2006 (the sound mind, body and soul)"—a health, beauty and wellness exhibit.

It will be a one-of-a-kind event that will represent the meaning of well-being—and showing off the qualities of a healthy lifestyle—its mental, physical and social aspects.

Taking place on July 15 and 16 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Centennial Hall B of Manila Hotel, this grandiose event will be embellished by various highlights such as on-stage demonstrations, audio-visual presentations, individual promotional activities like product profiles, special discounts on sales, free services and product sampling, and a stylish parade of healthy living participated by the fresh faces of entertainment and fashion industry. Career people, entrepreneurs, executives, soon-to-be-brides and couples, and students will take part in this breakthrough exhibit targeting the AB and upper C crowd.

Ultimately, this event will showcase the country's top lifestyle connoisseurs—from food and healthy beverages, physical fitness, spas, beauty salons, skin, hair, and body care, resorts and other venues that inspire tranquility and Zen, therapeutic remediation, fashion and style, cosmetics, home living to even accessories. Other related products and services are also welcome. In these, there will be a rediscovery of a naturally sound mind, body and soul.

For more information, call the marketing office in Makati (898-3427) look for Zita Paloma or Weng, 413-3023 and look for Nathan De Leon, or through 0918-407428, 0906-2518401, or 0915-5602764.

Lufthansa and Yehey.com announce promo winner

TWO FORMIDABLE GIANTS recently launched a one-of-a-kind Internet promo. Leading European carrier Lufthansa German Airlines (Philippines) and Yehey.com, the Philippines' premier Internet portal, rocked cyberspace with a special sign-up promo that ran from December 2005 to March 2006.

Three Nokia 6680 mobile units were up for grabs. The mechanics were simple: just subscribe to Lufthansa's monthly newsletter and complete a quick questionnaire to qualify for the raffle.

More than 800 Net surfers subscribed to the Lufthansa newsletter in hopes of winning one of the much-coveted mobile phones.

The suspense came to an end as Lufthansa general manager Christopher Zimmer, together with Yehey.com marketing specialist Carla Jimenez, drew the names of the lucky winners of the Nokia 6680 mobile phones.

The new Lufthansa newsletter subscribers and proud owners of modern mobile phones are Sergio Sy, Rolando Hernandez and Hilda Angelito.

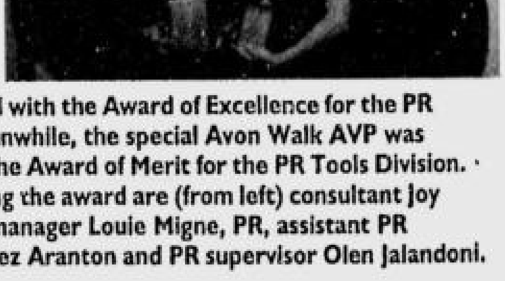
Lufthansa is a fully privatized group of companies offering air transport services, including passenger airlines, tourism, logistics, flight catering, aircraft maintenance and information technology.

Lufthansa German Airlines is a founding member of the Star Alliance, and has developed one of the most comprehensive alliance networks in the industry.

R.A. GAPUZ NOW AT SM CITY MANILA

In its quest to give nurses from all over the country equal opportunities to turn their dreams into reality, R.A. Gapuz Review Center—the Philippines' number one nursing review center—has taken the next step in reaching out to nurses by opening a branch at the SM City Manila. The branch is located at the 5th floor, Phase 2 of SM City Manila. Strategically located inside the mall, the review center aims to give students and nurses easy access to its review venues. The blessing of the latest review facility was held June 28 with ceremonies graced by professor Ray A. Gapuz himself, along with close friends and colleagues. For inquiries, call 404-0961 or 536-5417 and look for Job or Noriel.

AVON WALKS OFF WITH TOP HONORS



Avon's breast cancer advocacy special project Avon Walk got the nod from the country's public relations experts during the recent Anvil Awards. Out of a total 116 entries, Avon Walk was among only 24 cited with the Award of Excellence for the PR Programs Division. Meanwhile, the special Avon Walk AVP was likewise honored with the Award of Merit for the PR Tools Division. Shown in photo receiving the award are (from left) consultant Joy Buensalido, senior PR manager Louie Migne, PR, assistant PR manager Faith Fernandez Aranton and PR supervisor Olen Jalandoni.

PDA Quezon province dental chapter's 1st quarter scientific meet, 71st induction

THE QUEZON PROVINCE DENTAL CHAPTER OF the Philippine Dental Association (QPDC) will hold its first quarterly scientific seminar and 71st annual induction ceremony on Sunday, July 9 at the Queen Margarette Hotel, Diversion Road, Lucena City. According to Dr. Olga T. Muñoz, QPDC president, the affair will be highlighted by scientific lectures by Dr. Joseph Macasiray ("Surgical Tips for General Dentists") and Dr. Ricardo Boncon ("Common Dental and Non-Dental Pain Diagnosis and Treatment"), and keynote address by Dr. Leticia O. Santos, PDA president. Aside from Dr. Muñoz, other officers of QPDC are Drs. Elisa I. Tan, president-elect, Nimia G. Gabatin, executive vice president, Eulalia C. Limbo, VP (St. Claire), Olympia M. Restar, VP (St. Ferdinand), Ma. Cielo O. Rico, VP (St. Lorenzo), Aurelia C. Abada, VP (St. Isidore), Ma. Reina Rizza V. Manila, VP (St. Didacus), Joy Maria A. de Castro, VP (St. Mark), Shirlene G. Rebleza, secretary, Caren C. Morales, asst. secretary, Irma V. Cadiz, treasurer, Ma. Maureen V. Capinpin, asst. treasurer, Mariam V. Merluza, auditor, Cesar Anthony I. Orias, PRO, Imee H. Sia, business manager, and Gerardo L. Merle, immediate past president.

The Management and Staff of

COMPUTER NETWORK SYSTEMS CORPORATION

and

MOSAIC COMMUNICATIONS, INCORPORATED

Commemorate the 5th Year Death Anniversay
of their beloved Founder

DR. WILLY N. GAN

Former President, Computer Network Systems Corp.
Former Chairman & CEO, Mosaic Communications, Inc.

who passed away peacefully on
July 9, 2001 (US Pacific Time)
July 10, 2001 (Manila Time)

Our many thanks to all
who keep him in their memory

In Loving Memory

WILLY N. GAN

FEBRUARY 13, 1946 – JULY 10, 2001

His loving wife, **Beta Balagot-Gan** and children, **Isabelle** and **Richard** request relatives and friends to join them in their prayers.

Holy Masses will be offered today, July 9, 2006 at the following churches:

Shrine of Mary-Our Lady of EDSA
Ortigas, Pasig .... 4:30 pm

Sto. Niño de Paz-Greenbelt Chapel
Ayala Center, Makati .... 6:00 pm

Our Lady of Atonement-Baguio Cathedral
Baguio City 5:00pm

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.
Cebu City .... 3:00 pm

Redemptorist Chruch, Davao City........................ 4:30 pm

"Our love bonds live on, though
you are now on the other side..."

"...absent
from the
body to be
present with
the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

Cipriana N. Guzman

of Daet, Camarines Norte & Las Piñas City
Peacefully joined her Creator and her son
Willi on June 21, 2006 at the age of 98.

Relatives and friends request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of their souls. Both Mother and son were cremated.

"Even when I walk through a
dark valley, I feel no harm.
For you are at my side, your
rod and staff give me
courage..." Psalm 23:4

A Message of Thanks

WE, THE FAMILY OF THE LATE

ROSARIO OCO APACIBLE

who peacefully joined her Creator and her beloved husband
Dr. Mariano B. Apacible, Sr., Ph.D.
on June 30, 2006 at the age of 97,

sincerely express our thanks and gratitude to all those who offered prayers and Masses, sent flowers, condoled and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

We know that Mama is now happy with Papa in heaven.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS
❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)
• DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS •
• DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN •

NORBERTO BERT LIZARES LABAYEN

February 9, 1937 – July 4, 2006

You gave me life and showed me kindness, and in your care you watched over my life.

Bert is survived by his wife **Teresita Jalbuena Labayen**; daughters **Catherine Labayen-Tupas**, **Anne Marie Labayen**, **Marie Therese Labayen-Kim**, **Mary Grace Labayen**, **Jeanette Labayen-Tago**; sons-in-law **Romelito Tupas**, **David Kim** and **Joel Tago**; grandchildren **Catherine Clare Tupas** and **Francis Rommel Tupas**; brothers and sister.

Bert will be laid to rest on July 7, 2006 at the Chapel of the Chimes, 32992 Mission Boulevard, Hayward, California 94544, U.S.A.

40 daily Masses at 6 p.m. at Most Holy Rosary Parish, Sun Valley, Parañaque City.

CLASSIFIEDS

PLAQUE OF RECOGNITION

Dr. Alan Ortiz (middle), President and CEO of the National Transmission Corporation (Transco) and Finance Secretary and Transco Board Chair Margarito Teves (right) receive a plaque of recognition from Institute of Corporate Directors' (ICD) Executive Director Jonathan D.C. Moreno for being in the top 5 among the country's state-owned enterprises in the field of corporate governance. ICD, a non-profit organization promoting corporate governance reform and professional corporate directorship, said that TransCo was the highest-ranked GOCC as all the top four placers were government financial institutions (GFIs).

CAGELCO II

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The **CAGAYAN II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.** (CAGELCO II) is inviting all interested bidders to pre-qualify and to bid for **TRANSFORMERS AND WOODPOLES.**

To be qualified, bidder must have fully complied with the following:

1. Accreditation Requirements (for submission to the Accreditation Committee Chairman Clarence F. Jacinto)
   - a. Company Profile
   - b. Business Registration
   - c. Business Permit
   - d. BIR/VAT Certificate
   - e. Latest Income Tax Return (ITR)
   - f. List of Clients for a period of three (3) years
   - g. Financial Statement
2. Must be able to pay P2,000.00 (for this particular bidding only and not refundable) for bid documents during the pre-bid conference.

CAGELCO II reserves the right to reject any/or all bid without any reason, waive any formality therein, accepts proposal most advantageous to the cooperative and assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bid nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

Pre-bid conference and bidding schedules shall be informed to all qualified bidders through fax and mails.
Deadline for submission of requirements, July 25, 2006.

(Sgd.) GABRIEL A. TORDESILLAS
General Manager

(PDI – July 9 & 16, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Batangas
Municipality of Malvar

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Date: July 9, 2006
Contract ID No.: SP-041-IN-02
World Bank Loan No.: 4446 PH

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of Local Government Finance and Development and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for the *Construction of Various School Buildings.* Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.
2. The *Municipality of Malvar, Batangas* invites sealed bids from eligible sources for the *Construction of Various School Buildings:*
   - a. *Construction of Two Storey, 6CL school Building at Malvar Central School, Poblacion, Malvar, Batangas.*
   - b. *Construction of One Storey 4CL School Building; Construction of Toilet Building at San Pedro Elementary School, San Pedro II, Malvar, Batangas.*
   - c. *Construction of One Storey 4CL Building with Toilet at San Fernando Elementary School, Malvar, Batangas.*
3. Bidding documents may be purchased starting *July 10, 2006 during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Municipal Agriculturist, New Municipal Hall Building Malvar, Batangas* upon payment of a non-refundable fee of *Five Thousand Three Hundred Pesos (Php 5,300.00)* or its equivalent in a freely-convertible currency, for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of *ninety (90)* days after bid opening and must be accompanied by bid security of *Two Hundred Sixty Eight Thousand Pesos (Php 268,000.00)* in a form of cash, certified check, bank guarantee or its equivalent in a convertible currency and shall be delivered to the *BAC Secretariat, Office of the Municipal Agriculturist, New Municipal Hall Building Malvar, Batangas* on or before *August 8, 2006 at 10:00 AM* at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
5. A pre-bid conference will be held at *July 25, 2006 at 10:00 AM at the Conference Room, New Municipal Hall Building, Malvar, Batangas.*

(Sgd.) LEONIDA T. MANDO
BAC Chairman

(PDI-July 9, 2006)

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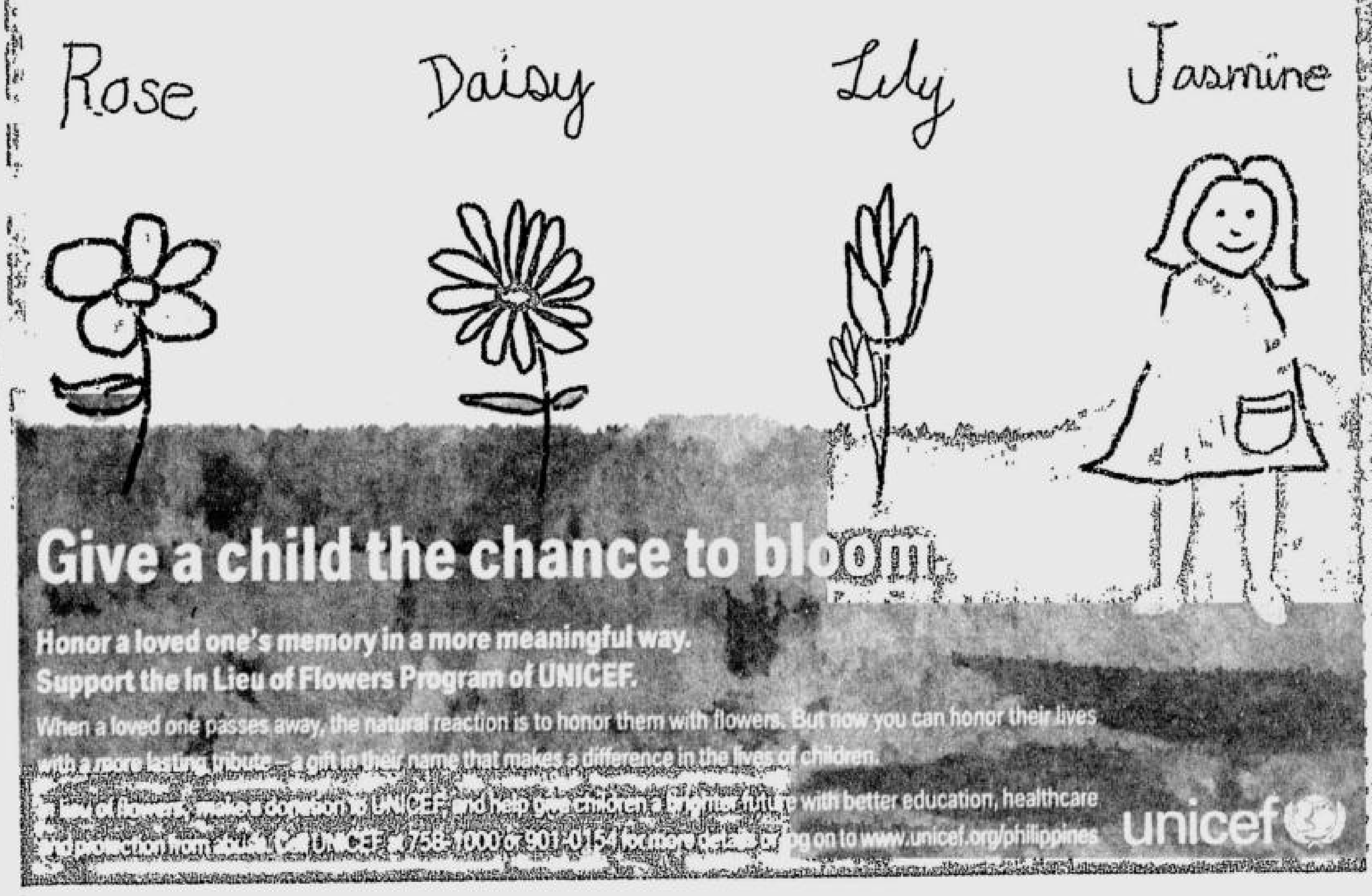

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In lieu of flowers, make a donation to UNICEF and help give children a brighter future with better education, healthcare and protection from abuse. Call UNICEF at 758-1000 or 901-0154 for more details or log on to www.unicef.org/philippines

unicef

In loving memory of

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CVV/CVC No.

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(632) 7294529

Or send to:
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Post Office 1250, Makati City

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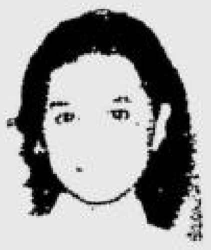

The Lord is my Shepherd;
I shall not want. Surely goodness and
mercy shall follow me all the days of
my life; and I will dwell in the house of
the Lord for ever.
Psalm 23: 1 & 6

Our beloved

HEIDI ARANETA CABULAY

of Makati City and Lallo, Cagayan,
Sentro ng Wikang Filipino, UP, Diliman, Quezon City
and Roosevelt College, Marikina City

Peacefully joined her Creator on June 27, 2006
at Round Rock Medical Center, Austin, Texas, USA
at the age of 37.

Her loving parents, **Demetrio Ponce Cabulay, Sr. (†)**, **Eden Araneta Cabulay**; brothers, sister, in-laws **Danny A. Cabulay**, **Edelyn A. Cabulay-Harold Da Silva**, **Demetrio "Bong" A. Cabulay, Jr.-Fia V. Gonzales**; nephews, **Adrian**, **Daniel**, and **Alexi Da Silva** and **Erick Jonathan G. Cabulay**; bosom friend, **Ramon "Mes" De Guzman**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to join them in their prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains will be flown to the Philippines and lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels – Guadalupe, Makati City on July 11-13, 2006. Interment will be on July 13 at Garden of Memories, Pateros after the 8:30 a.m. service at Loyola Chapel.

RUDY MANULID VALERIO

Peacefully joined our Creator
on July 7, 2006 at the age of 48.

His loving wife, **Rosanna**;
children **Crystal May**, **Stephanie**
and **Michael Keith**;
parents **Gaudencio, Sr.** and **Corazon**;
brothers **Mario**, **Jun**, and **Jojo**;
sisters-in-law **Carlota**, **Carol** and **Aida**;
nephews and nieces; relatives and friends
request the pious readers to pray
for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state
at the Tanguile Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat
(inside Manila Memorial Park), Sucat,
Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, July 12, 2006
at the Manila Memorial Park after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Matthew 10:39

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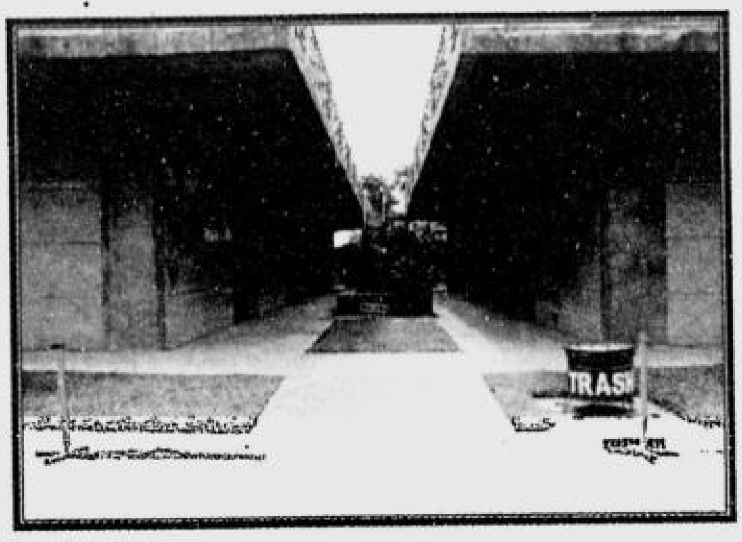

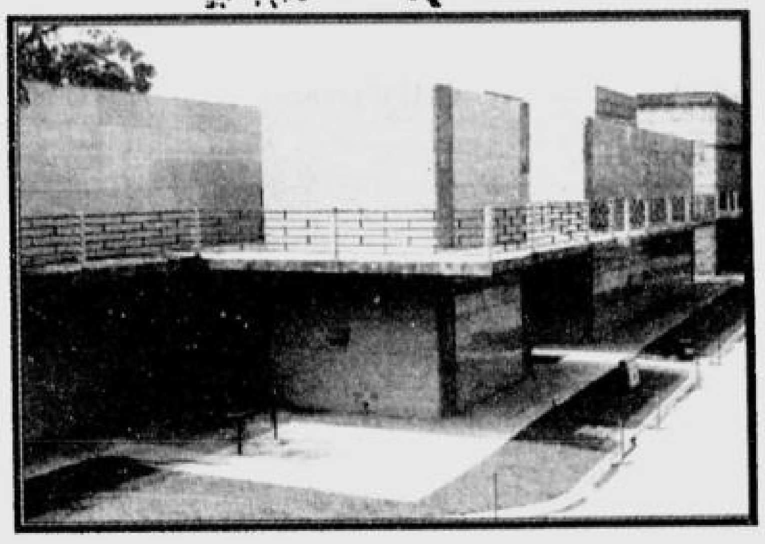

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With the CITY COUNCIL OF MANILA
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CHC DEVELOPMENT CONSORTIUM, INC.

Our Loving Mother

PRISCA F. FABULAR

Peacefully joined her husband and the Lord on June 27, 2006 at the age of 80 at San Diego, California.

Her bereaved children: Vicky, Ronnie, Ann, Arnold, Anchis, Loy, Lot, Beb, Mhai, Ju and Mon; sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, grandchildren, great grandchildren, nephews, nieces and relatives request the pious readers to pray for her eternal happiness in heaven.

Her remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on July 12, 2006, Wednesday at the Centennial Garden, National Highway, Brgy. Macabling, Sta. Rosa, Laguna after the 7 a.m. Mass.

"And... I will dwell in the House of the Lord... Forever." Psalm 23

Rosario (Chari) Cabrera vda. de Araullo

Loving wife of Gervasio (Chito) A. Araullo (+), peacefully joined the Lord on July 02, 2006 at the age of 88 after receiving the Last Sacraments in Chula Vista, California, USA.

The former Public Relations Officer of Sampaguita Pictures, Inc., VP Enterprises and Folk Arts Theater of the Philippines, Chari is survived by her children: Ma. Cristina and Richard A. Falcon, Antonio and Mary Fernandez, Ma. Maria and Dan Sadol, Rene Luis and Evelyn Crucillo, Miguel Angel and Evelyn Flores; grandchildren: Georgina and Jean Paul, Janina, Rachel Ann, and Allison, Ramir Angelo, Ana Rebecca, and Ana Rowena, Ron Reuben, Michael Anthony and Ma. Regina; siblings: Juan A. Cabrera, Margarita C. Bataclan, and Milagros C. Araneta; brothers- and sisters-in-law; great grandchildren; other relatives and friends, who request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

A memorial service and cremation will be done in Chula Vista on Saturday, July 08, 2006. Interment of her ashes in the San Agustin Church catacombs in Intramuros, Manila will be announced at a later date.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring.. **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Certified Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

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SALES

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Network Engineer (CISCO)
Telecommunications Manager (Avaya)
Telecommunication Administrator (Cebu)

HUMAN RESOURCES

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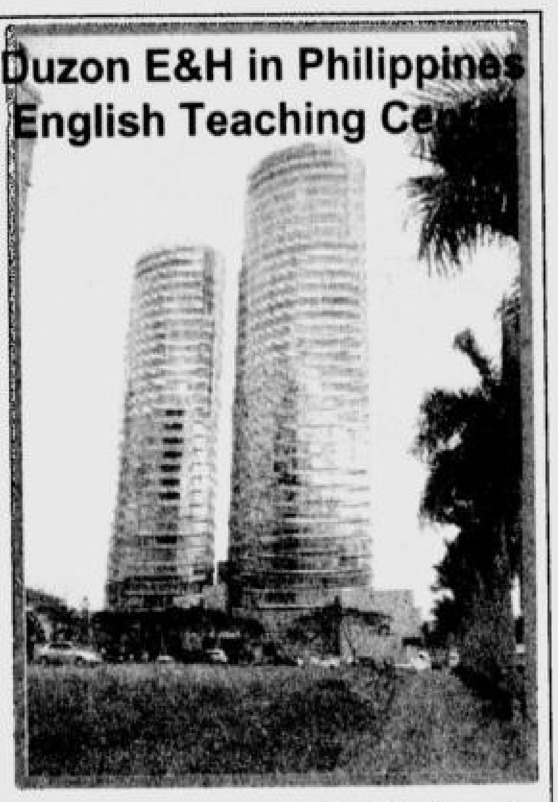

Duzon E & H, a leading education company in Korea, has established an English Teaching Center occupying 3 floors in Alabang, for 500 teachers when fully operational, for teaching English conversation to Koreans through internet phone and website. And now we are seeking experienced teachers, supervisors and other staffs who will join us as follows. Competitive compensation package awaits qualified applicants.

1. Positions / Qualifications / Responsibility

Position	Qualification	Responsibility	Working Hour
Teacher (Online Tutor)	- Native & Fluent Speaker of English - University Graduate - English-related Major preferred - Call-Center Experience preferred - Good Moral Character	- Teaching English to Korean Members using Online phone and web-site (20 Min. per Member) - Managing Members' Study	Mon.~Fri. Full Time (5am~2pm) Full Time (2pm~11pm) Part Time (5am~9am) Part Time (7pm~11pm)
Supervisor	- Native & Fluent Speaker of English - University Graduate - English-related Major preferred - Over 3-year Call-Center Experience required - Good Moral Character	- Managing Teachers' Schedule and Lectures - Training & Developing Teachers - Substitute for Absent Teacher when necessary	Mon.~Fri. Full Time (5am~2pm) Full Time (9am~6pm) Full Time (2pm~11pm)
IT Technician	-Thorough Knowledge of Hard/Soft-ware and Internet - IT-related Major - Call-Center Experience preferred - Good Moral Character	- Maintaining IT Hardware & Internet Infrastructures - Training & Supporting Teachers in IT Manipulation - Management of IT Assets	Mon.~Fri. Full Time (5am~2pm) Full Time (9am~6pm) Full Time (2pm~11pm)

2. Application: English Resume with Picture (Indicate the Position & Working Time applying for)
3. Send To: choisk@duzonenh.com (Duzon E&H e-mail) or fax to 02-771-1800
ncoralde@mscorp.com.ph (MSC e-mail) or fax to 02-889-5172
4. Deadline: Jul. 13(Thu.), 2006
5. Miscellaneous
1) Work Place: Insular Life B/D in Muntinlupa City (in front of Festival Mall)
2) Process: Each company will review the résumé's. Qualified applicants will be notified individually for the interview and screening tests.

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in building construction

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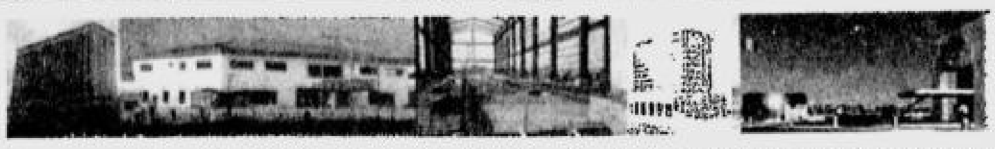
or email to jdbec_inc@yahoo.com



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CIVIL WORKS DESIGN ENGINEERS — Registered Professional; Knowledgeable in AutoCAD and Autodesk Land Development Desktop; Must have at least 2 years relevant engineering design experience; Previous experience on US projects an advantage but not necessary; With good communication skills and can work with minimal supervision; Willing to be assigned abroad

PROJECT ENGINEERS — Registered Civil Engineer; With extensive 3 to 5 years experience in Project Construction and Management; With good communication skills and can work with minimal supervision; Willing to be assigned anywhere

X STEEL DETAILERS — BS Architecture or Civil Engineering course graduate; Knowledgeable in X Steel software; Must have at least 6 months relevant experience; Can produce structural steel fabrication outputs; Experience in industrial facilities such as power plants, cement plants, refineries and precast concrete design and detailing; With good communication skills and can work with minimal supervision.

CADD OPERATORS — BS Architecture or Civil Engineering course graduate; Proficient in the use of AutoCAD, Architectural Desktop, 3D Studio or any engineering\architectural\mechanical software; Must have at least 2 years relevant experience; Experience on precast concrete detailing an advantage; With good communication skills and can work with minimal supervision; Willing to be assigned abroad

ARCHITECTS — Registered Professional; Must have at least 3 years relevant experience; Creative in conceptualization; Proficient in AutoCAD\Corel and other architectural software; Can prepare plans from Design to Construction; With good communication skills and can work with minimal supervision; Willing to be assigned abroad

MECHANICAL \ ELECTRICAL \ SANITARY ENGINEERS — Registered Professional; Knowledge in the use of AutoCAD and other engineering design software; Must have at least 3 years relevant experience; With good communication skills and can work with minimal supervision

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT — Preferably Registered Civil Engineer; With at least 2 years relevant experience; Knowledge in MS Office Applications; Possesses extensive knowledge in business evaluation and project feasibility studies; Excellent in oral and written communication skills; With deep sense of commitment and business acumen; Resourceful and keen to details; Can work with minimal supervision; Willing to work on extended hours

ADMIN ASSISTANT – Graduate of any 4 year business course; With at least 2 years relevant experience; Knowledge in MS Office Applications; Excellent in oral and written communication skills; Knowledge in doing business correspondence; Hardworking, organized, self motivated, driven, and energetic with an exceptional work ethic

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Apply online at: **www.escaengineers.com**
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TÜV

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

The Office of the Representative of the United Nations Population Fund, Manila is seeking applications from competent candidates to fill the post of **Population and Development Strategies and Advocacy Adviser.**

Under the technical guidance of the UNFPA Programme Officers for PDS and Advocacy and the immediate administrative supervision of the Programme Manager, the PDS/Advocacy Adviser shall provide technical assistance to the UNFPA-assisted provinces, municipalities and NGOs in Mindanao in the areas of population and development and advocacy.

Essential Qualifications:

- Must have a Master's Degree in Public Administration or any of the social sciences
- Must have at least five (5) to seven (7) years of solid technical experience in population development and advocacy work
- Must possess excellent conceptual and analytical skills, strategic thinking and result orientation
- Must have very good interpersonal and communication (oral and written) skills
- Must be proficient in MS Word, MS Excel, Powerpoint and Internet applications
- Willing to travel to conflict-affected areas and be based in Davao

Detailed job description may be found at our website www.unfpa.org.ph

Applicants are requested to send application letter indicating post title together with completed UN Personal History Form (P.11) available at www.unfpa.org.ph/jobs to:

The Country Representative
United Nations Population Fund
30th Floor, Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza,
6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
or through email: ltraquina@unfpa.org.ph.

All questions related to the announcement must be sent to Ms. Rosario Peralta of UNFPA Manila by email yperalta@unfpa.org.ph

We will only be able to respond to those applicants in whom UNFPA has a further interest. Women and nationals from developing countries are encouraged to apply. UNFPA is an equal opportunity employer and reserves the right to appoint at the indicated or lower level and prior to the closing date. This is a project-funded post.

Salary: Negotiable based on experience and qualifications
Deadline for submission of applications: 21 July 2006

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For more information pls. call 862-3041 to 44

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Four (4) FURNITURE DRAFTSMEN
One (1) INTERIOR RENDERER

COST ESTIMATOR/FULL SIZER/QUALITY CONTROL:

1. Graduate of BS Architecture or BS Civil Engineering
2. With one (1) year related experience in furniture firm
3. Computer literate, knowledgeable in Microsoft Office & AUTOCAD
4. Male, 25-35 years old with pleasing personality

FURNITURE DRAFTSMAN/INTERIOR RENDERER:

1. Graduate of BS Architecture / Interior Design
2. Knowledgeable in AUTOCAD/3D VIV/ PHOTOSHOP
3. With one (1) year experience in furniture firm
4. Male or female, 25-35 years old with pleasing personality

Interested applicants may submit your curriculum vitae with picture at Unit 213 La Fuerza Plaza II, Pasong Tamo corner Sabio Street, Makati City and look for Rubi Labordo or you may contact us at 815-8909/893-8209/818-6492

RIZAL POULTRY & LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION INC.
URGENTLY NEEDS

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- ➢ Has good analytical judgment
- ➢ Willing to be trained
- ➢ Knowledgeable on modern laboratory equipment
- ➢ Knowledgeable in molds and yeast identification
- ➢ Knowledge in poultry laboratory testing services is a *plus*
- ➢ Able to perform various tests (veterinary mostly)
- ➢ Able to use automated equipment and instruments
- ➢ Able to prepare scientifically accurate and thorough reports
- ➢ Able to work under pressure
- ➢ Able to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing
- ➢ Able to establish and maintain effective working relationships with fellow workers, supervisors and the public

Interested applicants may send or hand carry resumé and letter of application to:

HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENT
123 Gen. Luna St., Guitnangbayan I, San Mateo, Rizal
NOT LATER THAN JULY 14, 2006
look for Ms. Jes or call 941-1188; 941-3024; 298-0461 loc 112

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ACCOUNT MANAGER

(Small and Medium Enterprise Credit Unit)

The Tasks
Evaluates and manages credit risks of Intermediary Financial Institutions (IFIs) under a wholesale lending program designed to expand Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) loans. Recommends actions to credit committee as a result of credit review. Provides continued close attention to and monitoring of IFIs under his/her supervision. Classifies accounts and performs corrective actions. Assists in the development and implementation of an enterprise support program that encompasses training, research and policy advocacy to strengthen competencies of SMEs and intermediary financial institutions.

The Requirements
Interested applicants must have a college degree in Business, Banking and Finance or Economics, preferably with Master's Degree. He/she has a minimum of 3 years relevant work experience in financial accounting and analysis, account management, exposure to operations in banking and credit management. He/she must have excellent marketing presentation and technical writing skills, and exceptional leadership qualities. Substantial exposure to SME market and operations is an advantage.

<<<< >>>>

MANAGER

(Foundation Affairs Unit)

The Tasks
The Foundation Affairs Manager develops and oversees the implementation of the Foundation's development communications and special fund campaign activities and programs. Recommends and supports brand development and management, media relations, collateral development, and communications with donors, partners and the general public. Provides direct supervision to the staff of the Foundation Affairs Unit.

The Requirements
Interested applicants must hold a college degree in any course related to Communications, preferably with Master's Degree. He/she must have at least 3 years relevant managerial experience in a similar organization with working knowledge in marketing and corporate communications, fund campaign and program management. He/she must possess leadership / interpersonal effectiveness and excellent communication & presentation skills. Has a thorough comprehension of Corporate Citizenship and Social Development principles.

Please forward your resume and transcript of records on or before 17 July 2006 to:

THE HRD MANAGER
Philippine Business for Social Progress
Philippine Social Development Center, Magallanes cor. Real Sts.,
Intramuros, Manila
Tel.: 527-7741 to 51 • Fax: 527-3743
Email: hrd@pbsp.org.ph • Website: www.pbsp.org.ph

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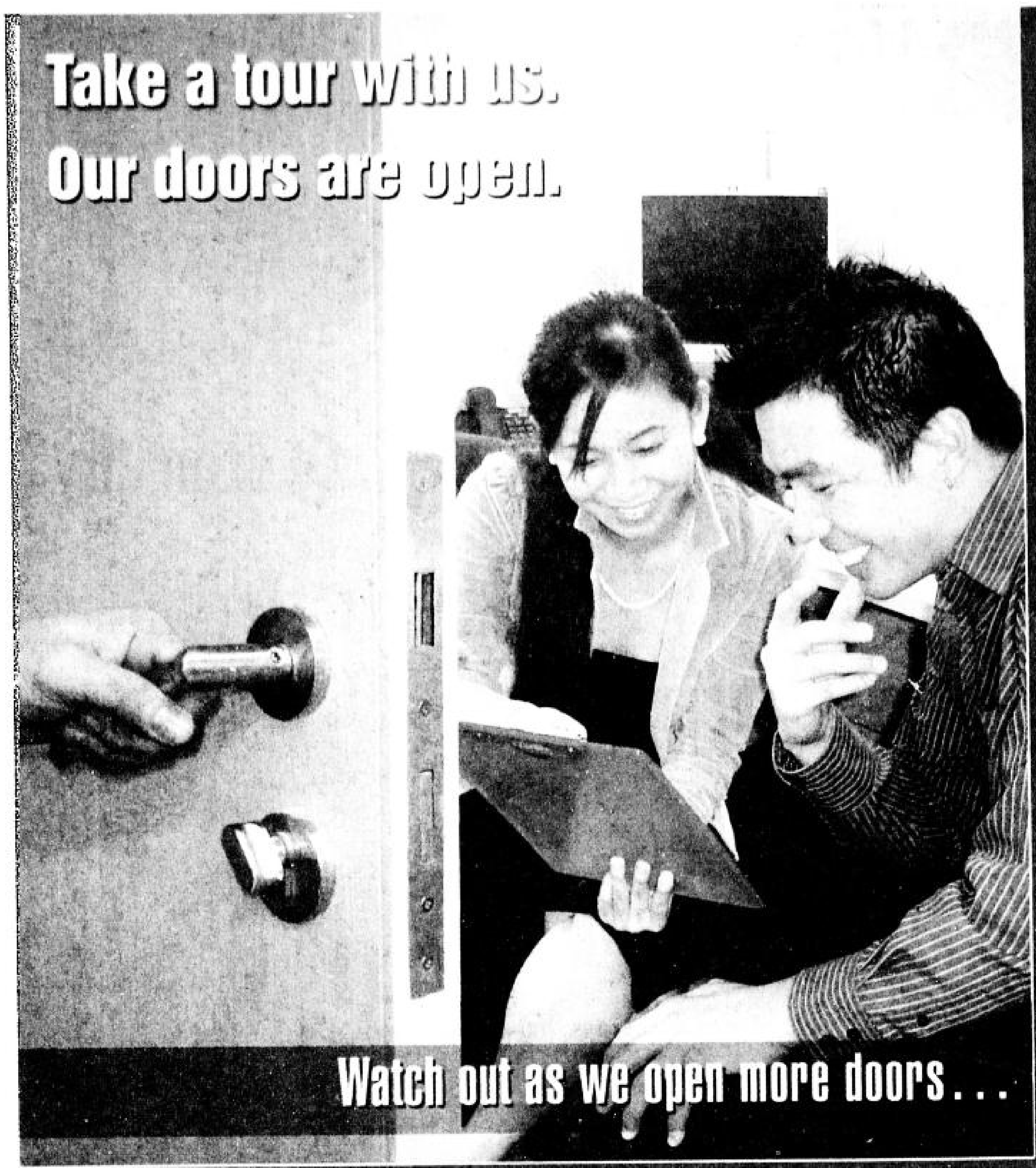
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(Makati or Ortigas)
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TECHNICAL CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVES
(Commonwealth, Makati, or Ortigas)
Troubleshoot technical problems, provide step by step instructions, and help customers of premier Internet service providers get back online.

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Free food will be served to walk-in applicants in our Convergys Alabang site from July 10-12, 2006.

Commonwealth Office
2/F Diliman Commercial
Center, #46 Don Mariano
Marcos Avenue, Diliman,
Quezon City
(02)756-7088

Makati Office
Convergys One, 6796
Ayala Ave., cor Salcedo
St. Legaspi Village,
Makati City
(02)756-7188

Ortigas Office
24th Floor, Robinsons
Equitable Tower, #4
ADB Avenue Ortigas
Center, Pasig City
(02)857-7678

Alabang Office
Block 44, Northgate
Cyberzone,
Muntinlupa City
(02)758-1688

U-Belt Office
Level 1, St. Thomas Square
1150 España Boulevard
cor. Padre Campa St.
Sampaloc, Manila
(02)735-2006

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THE WORLD BANK OFFICE MANILA
Requires a

SENIOR HEALTH ECONOMIST/HEALTH SPECIALIST

The World Bank Office in Manila requires a highly competent, results-oriented individual to provide expert technical assistance and coordination skills related to the expanding World Bank-assisted program health program based in Manila and to travel periodically within the country The position is for a two-year Term appointment, subject to one-year probationary period, with a possibility for renewal. This position is subject to local recruitment and compensation package and offers attractive, challenging and professional growth opportunities in working within a global development organization. The position is for a senior level staff, who will report to the Sector Manager for Health, Nutrition and Population based in the World Bank's Headquarters in Washington and the staff will work closely in terms of day to day supervision with the country sector coordinator based in Manila.

The selected candidate will be working with an internationally-recruited lead coordinator for World-Bank-assisted programs in the Human Development sector and with a multi-disciplinary team comprising an internationally-recruited senior health specialist and other human development specialists, economists, and other relevant disciplines in the World Bank Office in Manila, and would have the **following major duties and responsibilities:**

- Participate in the supervision of the World Bank's assistance to the Philippines' health sector, including the National Sector Support to Health Reform Project, the Women's Health and Safe Motherhood Project, and other analytic and cross-sectoral work aimed at improving health outcomes, management of public health expenditure, and protection of the poor from the costs of health care in the Philippines;
- Contribute to the policy dialogue with government and development partners in order to help advance the health sector reform strategy of the Government and, support the Department of Health in its plans for development of a sector-wide approach;
- Generates cross-sectoral inputs to improve health outcomes and health sector performance, including the perspective of good public expenditure management, as well as other disciplines and sectors, especially those related to infrastructure, environment and social development;
- Liaise with, and provide information, to relevant national and local government units, NGOs, peoples organizations, academic institutions, private sector, international donor agencies, and other stakeholders on matters related to the health sector in the country and World Bank assistance in the sector;
- Provide a leading or supporting role in specific lending and analytical and advisory activities of the World Bank related to the health sector.

Below are the desired minimum **qualifications, skills and competencies** for the position:

- Masters degree or higher in health economics, or a medical doctor with training and experience in economics and public policy-related disciplines.
- At least ten years of relevant experience: a mixture of policy, analytic and implementation work would be desirable,
- Demonstrated outstanding interpersonal and networking skills among various development stakeholders, with a strong understanding of the institutional, social, political and cultural issues in one or more of the Human Development sub-sectors;
- Excellent team player, with a strong client and results orientation, with a high degree of adaptability, and ability to work independently, with minimum supervision,
- Proficient computer skills as well as excellent written and verbal language skills in English and Filipino.

Please send your application letter, with a comprehensive resume w/ details of your work experience, academic records, recent photo, references (at least three names with full contact details) not later than August 1, 2006. **Only applicants who will be short-listed will be called upon for interview.** Send the above to:

The Human Resource Officer
P.O. Box 300, c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
5/F Building B, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City 1550

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World Vision

Business Operations and Human Resources Manager

World Vision International – Asia Regional Office (WVI-ARO), the regional office of an International Christian humanitarian organization, seeks a mature, self-motivated and experienced Christian individual who will perform in a senior managerial capacity, to assist the expatriate Director manage the operations of WVI-ARO. The regional office houses several specialized project teams that support World Vision's global child sponsorship work, aspects of its operations in the Asia and Pacific region, in addition to other international commitments.

Specifically, the Business Operations and Human Resource Manager will oversee and coordinate the operations of WVI-ARO with special focus on the human resource management, finance, communications and administrative functions. He or she will work with project team leaders to ensure that timely and efficient support services are provided to the teams.

MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Oversee the local, regional and international financial transactions performed by the Finance team.
- Direct the human resource management function which supports a diverse group of specialized local and expatriate staff;
- Manage the overall office administration which includes legal compliance purchasing, utility services, and asset management;
- Coordinate and communicate with WVI-ARO's parent company in the United States and its overseas affiliates, to fulfill regional and international commitments
- Maintain office operations, during the Director's absence.

Requirements necessary for the success of this position :

- A bachelor's degree or higher in one or a combination of the following disciplines human resource management, financial management, business administration or management.
- A minimum of 5 years experience in a management capacity, in one or a combination of the following fields: human resource management, project management, finance and administration, business administration and management.
- Ability to work and interact with both local and international staff.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills in a cross-cultural setting
- Highly developed management skills, ability to identify operational problems and seek solutions

Please send CV by e-mail to Ms. Lorna Andres at lorna_andres@wvi.org on or before 15 July 2006. Only shortlisted candidates will be notified. Phone inquiries will not be entertained.

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Contract Systems Analyst

(Life Insurance/Ingenium/Capsil)
(Ref : A0613-F)

We are inviting experienced IT professionals to join our Hong Kong based regional project team to implement a life insurance package system in our company's Southeast Asia life insurance operations.

The incumbent has to analyze user requirements and perform gap analysis of user requirements and Ingenium system; to perform system design and functional specifications on system modifications and to support system development

Requirements:

- University graduate preferred
- At least 5 years of solid hands-on experience in life insurance application development
- Experience in COBOL is a MUST
- Experience in INGENIUM and/or CAPSIL will be preferred
- Good interpersonal and communication skills
- Excellent analytical and problem solving skills
- Able to work independently, self-motivated and under pressure

We offer an attractive remuneration package to the successful candidate. Please send a detailed resume in confidence, stating qualifications, expected salary and contact phone number marking "For the attention of Human Resources Department" to G.P.O. Box 444, Hong Kong or via our email address* at hrhongkong@aia.com (Please quote reference no. on the email, envelope & the application letter)

All information provided by applicants will be treated in strict confidence, used solely for recruitment purpose and will be used strictly in accordance with the employer's personal data policies, a copy of which will be provided immediately upon request. Applicants not contacted within 6 weeks may consider their applications unsuccessful. The Company will retain all applications no longer than 12 months of which will be destroyed thereafter

**There may be a possibility of unauthorized interception in the transmission if the applicants choose to send their resume through e-mail without encryption or other safeguarding measures*

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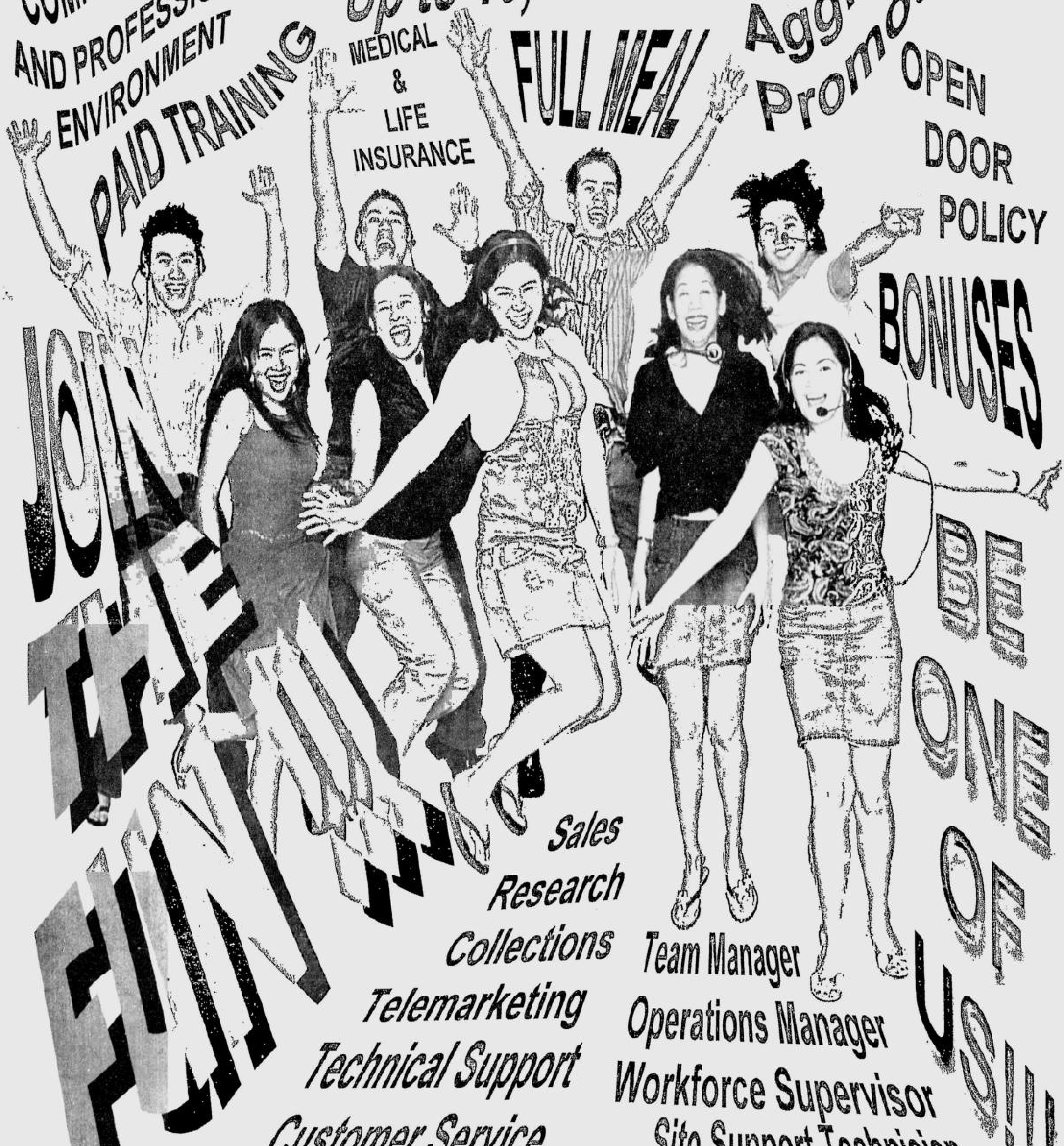

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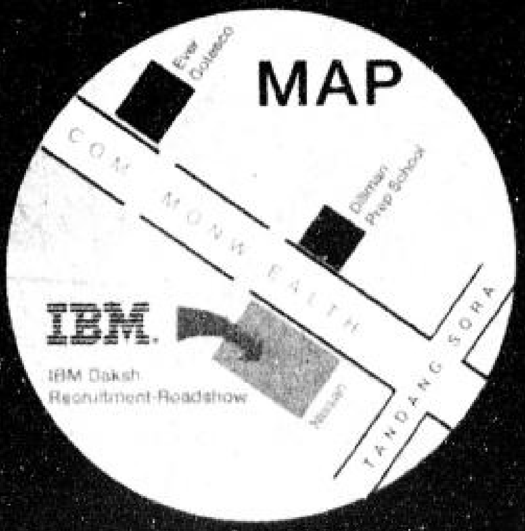

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Qualifications:

. Must have completed 3 years of college education or a 2-year vocational course
. Must possess excellent oral and written English communication skills
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Mondays to Fridays 9 am to 6 pm. Saturdays 9 am to 6 pm

THE WORLD BANK OFFICE MANILA

Requires a

HEALTH/PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION SPECIALIST

The World Bank Office in Manila requires a highly competent, results-oriented individual to provide technical assistance and coordination skills related to the World Bank-assisted health program in the Philippines. The program involves a partnership between the World Bank and the European Commission (EC) to support the implementation of the Government of the Philippines' health sector reform strategy in selected provinces throughout the country. Based in Manila, he/she is expected to travel within the country. The position is for a two-year Term appointment, subject to a one-year probationary period, with possibility of extension. This position is subject to local recruitment and compensation package and offers attractive, challenging and professional growth opportunities in working within a global development organization. The position will be funded through the trust fund supported by the EC. The staff will report to the Sector Manager for Health, Nutrition and Population based in the World Bank's headquarters in Washington, and the staff member will work closely in terms of day-to-day supervision with the Human Development Country Sector Coordinator for the Philippines, based in Manila.

The selected candidate will be working with an internationally-recruited senior health specialist, and a team of financial management, procurement, and other relevant specialists, would have the **following major duties and responsibilities:**

- Provide technical assistance and regular monitoring, assessment and review of the mobilization and implementation of a World-Bank-administered European Commission Trust Fund and World Bank loan funds which will support implementation of health reform in selected convergence provinces throughout the Philippines;
- Represent the World Bank in the Department of Health's sector development approach for health, which requires closer coordination of development assistance for local health sector reform under the leadership of the Department of Health, and joint implementation of support provided by the World Bank and European Commission;
- Liaise with, and provide information, to relevant national and local government units, NGOs, academic institutions, private sector, international development partners, and other stakeholders on matters related to the World Bank assistance in the health sector;
- Provide a leading or supporting role in specific lending and non-lending activities of the World Bank related to the Human Development sector.

Below are the desired minimum **qualifications, skills and competencies** for the position:

- Masters degree or higher in a relevant discipline, preferably in a health science or a public-policy or public administration-related discipline;
- At least five years of proven track record in the health sector; a mix of policy and operational/implementation experience is desirable; experience with mobilization and implementation of projects supported by development assistance is also desirable;
- Demonstrated outstanding interpersonal and networking skills among various development stakeholders, with a strong understanding of the institutional, social, political and cultural issues in the health sector;
- Excellent team player, with a strong client and results orientation, with a high degree of adaptability, and ability to work independently, with minimum supervision;
- Proficient computer skills as well as excellent written and verbal language skills in English and Filipino.

Please send your application letter, with a comprehensive resume w/ details of your work experience, academic records, recent photo, references (at least three names with full contact details) not later than **August 1, 2006**. **Only applicants who will be short-listed will be called upon for interview.** Send the above to:

The Human Resource Officer
Box 200, c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
5/F Building B, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City 1550

Senior Control Officer

(for Investments, Borrowings and Derivative Transactions)

Responsibilities

The position under the general supervision of a professional staff, directs, controls, coordinates and carries out activities with respect to administrative matters; establishes, maintains and supervises the updating of accurate and complete accounting records and sound accounting/internal controls related to borrowings and derivative transactions; prepares financial statements related disclosures and reports for management financial reporting; and ensures always that the work area's objectives are accomplished in a timely, orderly, effective and efficient manner. At this level, the position is expected to work more independently from the professional staff supervisor.

For more details about the position, please see http://www.adb.org/Employment/Local/default.asp

Reporting Arrangement

The position reports to the Financial Control Specialist, Investments, Borrowings, and Bank Reconciliation Section (CTAC-IBR), Controller's Department (CTL).

Selection Criteria

Specific criteria include

- suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level.
- a Bachelor degree in Business Administration, major in Accounting/Finance; a CPA qualification; a CFA or equivalent experience in fixed income securities and derivative instruments is highly desirable.
- at least 10 years experience in accounting with proven supervisory capacity, preferably in a computerized environment in a large organization.
- proven supervisory and interpersonal skills with ability to provide feedback to subordinates.
- proficiency in MS Excel, MS Word, and accounting related software, and in the use of computer databases to extract information, and to generate standard and ad hoc reports.
- proficient understanding of the accounting policies, practices and systems as well as general policies, procedures, guidelines and reporting requirements prevalent in a multilateral institution.
- in-depth understanding of the interactions among different work areas and relevant work flows and their purpose, as well as business knowledge of relevant areas so as to enable accounting concepts to be applied appropriately.
- in-depth knowledge of the existing Accounting System and its interface with other systems and work areas.
- solid understanding of US or International generally accepted accounting concepts and principles, and their application.
- ability to plan and coordinate schedules in order to meet deadlines.
- analytical and systematic proficiency with strong numerical skills and attention to detail.
- excellent oral and written skills in English.

The Asian Development Bank's vision is a region free of poverty. Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its (national officers or administrative staff) locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside its Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting **Ref. No. EXT-N006-058(4)-CTAC-IBR** and **job title** on subject line and attaching application form available on www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp to e-mail address: CS-jobs@adb.org by **21 July 2006**.

Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

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CV RESUME
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Manila

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Medical Device (ISO 13485:2003) Quality System Auditor

Qualifications:

☑ Must be a graduate of any of the following courses:
  Biology / Microbiology / Chemistry / Biochemistry
  Electrical / Mechanical / Bioengineering
  Physiology / Medicine or Medical Technology
  Pharmacy / Pharmacology / Physics / Biophysics
  Materials / Biomaterials Science
  Computer and Software Technology / Programming
☑ Must have previous experience in one or more of the following:
  Medical device manufacturing and/or research and development
  ISO 9001 auditing (IRCA Registered or Equivalent)
  Application of device technology and its use in heath care services and with patients
  Testing devices for compliance with relevant national and international standards
  Conducting performance testing, evaluation studies or clinical trials of devices
  Related certification body experience, consultancy and regulatory affairs
☑ Has excellent communication skills and computer literate

Environmental Management Systems Auditor

Qualifications:

☑ Graduate of any 4-year computer related course.
☑ Must have 5 years experience in technical, managerial or professional position involving the exercise of judgment and problem-solving.
☑ Must have at least 2 to 5 years working experience in environmental legislation
☑ Must have knowledge and experience in the following key environmental areas:
  Emission to Air　Waste Management　Contamination of land
  Release to water　Materials & natural resources usage
☑ Must have excellent communication skills and computer literate
☑ Must have management capabilities appropriate to the role of lead auditor

Quality System Auditor

Qualifications:

☑ Graduate of 4-year course on IT related fields or information security.
For those with IT background: At least 4 years full-time practical workplace experience in information technology, of which at least 2 years must be in a role of function relating to information security.
For those with information security background: At least 4 years full-time practical workplace experience in information security, of which 2 years must be in IT.

Automotive Quality System Auditor (TS-16949)

Qualifications:

☑ Graduate of any 4-year course
☑ With automotive work experience
☑ ISO 9001 registered lead auditor

Laboratory Supervisors

Qualifications:

☑ Must be licensed Chemist
☑ At least 2 years experience in mineral or petroleum laboratory
☑ At least 2 years experience in supervisory position
☑ With sufficient hands-on experience on implementing environmental and safety programs
☑ Good communication (oral and written) and organization skills
☑ Willing to be relocated

Chemist Inspector

Qualifications:

☑ Graduate of Chemical Engineering, preferably with experience in quality/quantity inspection of petroleum/petrochemical products in accordance with company standards and client requirements; With excellent communication and interpersonal skills; Computer literate

Laboratory Analysts

Qualifications:

☑ Must be licensed Chemist or Engineer or graduate of Textile Technology
☑ At least 2 years experience in laboratory testing
☑ Must be computer literate

Laboratory Aide

Qualifications:

☑ Graduate of any technical course. Experience in laboratory work is an advantage.

Customer Service Management Staff

Qualifications:

☑ Graduate of 4-year Business course, preferably major in Marketing
☑ With at least 2 years experience in customer service management
☑ Must have excellent communication skills and computer literate

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ph_manila_hr@sgs.com

(Please indicate the desired position on your resume.)

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✓ Preferably has experience in IP/Mining/Environmental Issues
✓ Willing to work full time
✓ Not more than 40 years old

Send resumé with picture through fax at 687-4299 or e-mail at jruina@hotmail.com

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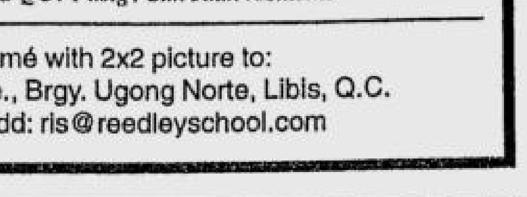

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USAID

2006 SEARCH FOR NOMINEES TO THE CONGRESSIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM FOR YOUNG MUSLIM LEADERS

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Congressional Internship Program for Young Muslim Leaders (CIPMYL) provides a four-month program in the Philippine House of Representatives and an introductory Governance course at the campus of the Mindanao State University in Marawi City. The program offers qualified young professionals from the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), and other conflict-affected areas in Mindanao opportunities to acquire hands-on experience in legislation and policy formulation, and pays all transportation and living allowances.

CIPMYL is a partnership among the Philippine House of Representatives, the Mindanao State University (MSU), and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). It is managed by USAID's Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) Program.

Eligibility Requirements:

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

1. Be not more that 30 years of age
2. Possess a BS or BA degree from a university in the ARMM or a conflict-affected area in Mindanao
3. Reside in the ARMM or in a conflict-affected area in Mindanao
4. Be able to articulate effectively and to represent the concerns and aspirations of people living in the ARMM and neighboring conflict-affected areas

Application Materials:

1. Completed internship application form
2. Certified true copy of official transcript of records from college/university attended
3. NBI and Police Clearance
4. At least two letters of recommendation from current or former university faculty and/or individuals who have supervised the applicant in a work setting. (A third recommendation letter will be required if the applicant's grade point average is below 2.5 or equivalent). At least one recommendation should come from a faculty member.
5. Two essays on "Goals" and "Policy Issues"

First Essay (400-500 words);
"Why I want to be an intern and what I want to do for my community?" (This will include a description of the applicant's academic, professional, and personal goals, and how the internship program fits into and advances these goals.)

Second Essay: (Approximately 1,000 words) :
Discuss a key policy issue of interest to you and your personal reflections on this issue. This essay should also include the applicant's general recommendations or strategies on how to address the issues.

Request for e-copy of application form & submit the above materials to:

DR. MACABANGKIT P. ATI
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Mindanao State University, Marawi City
Cell Phone: 0927 4166548
Email: mpati@msumain.edu.ph

APPLICATION DEADLINE : JULY 17, 2006

FBIC REEFER CORPORATION

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a progressive company expanding in a related field in freight forwarding needs...

1. FREIGHT FORWARDER SALES MANAGER (1)

- Male-Female not more than 45 years old
- Experienced in related field for 5 years with Domestic Shipping Industry
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- Excellent communication skills

2. ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE (3)

- Male-Female not more than 25 years old
- Excellent communication skills
- Pleasing personality, aggressive and results-oriented
- 2 years experienced in sales, Shipping Sales a Plus
- With Driver's License preferred

Interested parties please mail or e-mail your resumé to:
1957-59 M. Adriatico St., Malate, Manila
Fax# (02) 400-4964 email addr: fbicreefer@yahoo.com

The country's most widely read and circulated newspaper is in need of:

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS

QUALIFICATIONS:

- College degree holder in any Business course
- At least 5 years selling experience
- Must have a successful track record in sales, preferably managing dealers and key accounts in a consumer setting.
- Highly energetic, motivated, and can work with minimum supervision
- Effective presentation skills
- Willing to be assigned in Northern or Southern Luzon, Visayas and/or Mindanao

SYSTEMS ANALYST / PROGRAMMER

QUALIFICATIONS:

- College degree holder in Computer Science or Computer Engineering with a business background
- 1 to 2 years experience as systems analyst / programmer
- Must have knowledge of Visual Basic or Powerbuilder, VB Scripting, Perl Scripting, Web Programming, MS SQL 2000 or Sybase SQL or other relational database, Management System
- Can work with minimal supervision

PRE-PRESS SPECIALIST

QUALIFICATIONS:

- College degree holder in any Business or Computer course
- Must have solid layout and design skills set in a newspaper publishing environment
- Advanced knowledge of Photoshop, Illustrator, Freehand, Corel Draw, Pagemaker and Acrobat
- Understanding of color management systems
- Knowledge of Windows Operating System and Macintosh environments

DIVISION SECRETARY

QUALIFICATIONS:

- College degree holder in Accounting or Business course
- 1 year experience as secretary
- Must have secretarial and administrative skills
- Proficient in oral & written communication
- Knowledge of MS Word, Excel and Powerpoint

ACCOUNTING GRADUATES

QUALIFICATIONS:

- With at least 6 months to 1 year experience in Accounts receivables and/or Credit and Collection work
- Knowledge of MS Word, Excel and Powerpoint
- Can work under pressure and with minimum supervision

Send your application letter and comprehensive resumé to:

INQUIRER
The Power of Knowing

THE HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc.
Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City
E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

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- ➢ Is familiar with the territory of Luzon
- ➢ Has excellent managerial skills
- ➢ Can evaluate and inspire others to excel to their fullest potential
- ➢ Must have Customer Service experience
- ➢ Willing to travel

BRANCH MANAGER FOR DAVAO

- ➢ Has at least three (3) years experience in branch or sales management with office machines, POS, IT Products or related products
- ➢ Has good communication skills (written and oral) and leadership skills
- ➢ Is familiar with the territory of Davao and surrounding area
- ➢ Graduate of BS Marketing, BS Management or BS ECE with MBA units is a plus
- ➢ Knowledgeable in basic computer operations, Excel, Winword, Powerpoint, Microsoft Outlook etc.

WAREHOUSE SUPERVISOR

- ➢ Male, 25 to 35 years old
- ➢ College graduate preferably Accounting or related course
- ➢ Computer literate in MS Office Applications and has good verbal and written skills
- ➢ With leadership skills, good sound judgment and hardworking
- ➢ Must have at least 2 years supervisory experience in handling warehouse and storage operations

SALES PEOPLE

- ➢ Male or Female, at least 23 years of age
- ➢ Preferably but necessarily with selling experience in **CASH REGISTERS/POS, BARCODE PRINTERS, BANKING MACHINES, SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS, TIME AND ATTENDANCE SYSTEMS** or other office machines.

Please see us or send your Resumé with 2x2 colored picture at:
BUSINESS MACHINES CORPORATION
Carson Bldg., Orense cor,. Del Carmen Sts., Guadalupe Nuevo, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 882-3355-64
Email Address: bismac@bismac.com.ph

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

The Office of the Representative of the United Nations Population Fund, Manila is seeking applications from competent candidates to fill the post of **National Professional Programme Personnel (NPPP) for STI/HIV/AIDS.**

Under the guidance of the Country Representative and the supervision of the Assistant Representative as well as the NPPP for Reproductive Health, the incumbent will work with national counterparts, UN system organizations, multi and bilateral international development agencies, civil society and local communities to advise and facilitate the STI/HIV/AIDS related programmes within UNFPA priority areas of work.

Qualifications and experience required:

- Advanced degree in public health, medicine, or related field;
- At least 7 years of relevant experience in STI/HIV/AIDS, with significant academic and/or programme/policy experience, including at least five years of experiences at international level;
- Extensive knowledge and understanding of proven STI/HIV/AIDS strategies and approaches aimed at reducing the transmission, vulnerability and impact of HIV in the context of reproductive health and rights;
- Experience in facilitating meetings/workshops and coordinating/organizing events;
- Proven ability to manage technical, programme and operations staff;
- Excellent organizational skills, including computer skills;
- Excellent English, both verbal and written, is mandatory;
- Familiarity with UN development programmes and working methods, and particularly with UNFPA policies and procedures, experience in working with government and civil society is an added value;
- Work experience in Asia an asset.

Detailed job description may be found at our website www.unfpa.org.ph

Applicants are requested to send application letter indicating post title together with completed UN Personal History Form (P.11) available at www.unfpa.org.ph/jobs to:

The Country Representative
United Nations Population Fund
30th Floor, Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza,
6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
or through email: jtraquina@unfpa.org.ph.

All questions related to the announcement must be sent to Ms. Rosario Peralta of UNFPA Manila by email **yperalta@unfpa.org.ph**

We will only be able to respond to those applicants in whom UNFPA has a further interest. Women and nationals from developing countries are encouraged to apply. UNFPA is an equal opportunity employer and reserves the right to appoint at the indicated or lower level and prior to the closing date. This is a project-funded post.

Salary: Negotiable based on experience and qualifications

Deadline for submission of applications: 21 July 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

SALES ENGINEER (2)

- Industrial or Mechanical Engineer Graduate
- Single, 27 -38 yrs old; w/ experience in feedmilling and technical process; willing to travel
- Good communication / negotiation skills, hardworking
- Proactive, analytical, & computer literate

Interested applicants must bring their Transcript of Records, comprehensive resumé with 2x2 picture at:

CHIATUNG PHILS., INC.
Unit 174 17/F The Columbia Tower,
Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City
Email add:
recruitment_sil@yahoo.com.ph
Pls. look for Ms. Cora

STRUCTURAL & MISCELLANEOUS DETAILERS

With X-steel version 9 and 10 experience to support a North American Detailing firm on job by job contract basis (Philippine-based)

Pls. email your resumé and sample work to hr@capacityplus.ca

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

A New Company specializing in Media and Advertising

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

- Must be a Certified Public Accountant
- At least 5 yrs supervisory experience

EDITION TECHNICIANS

- Knowledgeable in professional video editing software
- Communication Arts, I.T. or Advertising graduate
- Male, not more than 30 yrs old

MAINTENANCE ENGINEER

- 2-3 yrs experience in equipment installation & maintenance
- Male, Mechanical or Engineering graduate

CREATIVE MEDIA PLANNER

- Creative, ability to sequence various videos professionally
- Female, Mass Communication or Advertising graduate
- Good command of verbal & written English
- Fresh Graduates may apply

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

- Male/Female, 1-2 yrs experience
- Marketing, Mass Communication, Advertising graduate or related course

Submit your resume w/ 2x2 photo, Transcript of Records, Employment Certificates & NBI Clearance

Unit 174 - 17/F Columbia Tower,
Ortigas Ave., Mandaluyong City
Email: recruitment_sil@yahoo.com.ph
Pls. look for Ms. Cora

WANTED

CIVIL ENGINEERS
ONE (1) SR. PROJECT ENGINEER
TWO (2) PROJECT ENGINEERS

- *BSCE Graduates, Licensed*
- *At least 10 yrs & 5 yrs experience in civil works, respectively*

Attractive Salary and Benefits
Must be willing to work outside Metro Manila

Bring resumé for interview at Suite 3-C Westgate Tower, Investment Drive, Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa.

Please text or call Mobile **#0915-6078248**
or call **850-4920**
Look for ***Nea*** *for schedule of interview*

More employment opportunities in today's JOB MARKET.

•WANTED•

POSITION : **TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TRAINEE**

QUALIFICATIONS :
: Licensed Mechanical Engineer for both field and office work
: Possess communication skills in both oral and written English
: Two years related work experience
: Computer literate
: Exposure to mobile equipment / transport industry is highly preferred.
: Willing to undergo training for professional / career advancement in the industry.
: Willing to travel to all ports nationwide ie. Visayas or Mindanao
: A permanent resident of Malabon, Navotas, Manila or Pasay Area.
: Honest, hardworking, healthy, trustworthy and excellent team-player
: Male 25-28 years old

Competitive compensation, negotiable

Qualified applicants may send their application letter with 2x2 picture, resumé, transcrpit of records, eligibility and work/character references to PO BOX #706 Herrera Tower, #98 Herrera St., V.A. Rufino, Salcedo Village, Makati City or through **liftmstr@info.com.ph**

TRADE MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST

A foreign assistance organization has an immediate need for a TRADE MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST. The successful candidate will serve as Project Specialist for activities related to international trade and domestic commerce, as well as those that enhance the competitiveness of specific economic sectors of the Philippines. He/She must be a professional level employee who can provide assistance and serve as advisor to senior-level staff in the development, management, and evaluation of various projects related to international trade, commerce, and agribusiness activities. The candidate must have a solid understanding of the bilateral and multilateral agreements related to international trade and investment, the economic, political, social and cultural situation of the Philippines, and must have working knowledge of the Philippine government's operational procedures. He/She must be an experienced professional with demonstrated expertise in economics and in management of highly visible activities with coverage through out the Philippines. Must have the ability to represent the organization in dealings with senior government officials.

Possession of a Bachelor's Degree in Economics or any related field in development assistance is required. Completion of a Masters Degree is desirable. Six to eight years of professional level experience in the indicated field of specialization is essential. Background in drawing up contract scopes of work and managing contractors is preferred. Must have excellent command of English language, both written and spoken. An understanding of a foreign assistance organization's development perspective is an advantage. Excellent human relations, interpersonal and teamwork skills are required to establish and maintain contacts with high-level officials of the national and local government, the organization's contractors, sub-contractors and grantees. Must be proficient in the use of computers.

Competitive salary (including mid-year and year-end bonuses), health and life insurance, supplementary retirement plan are offered.

Application letter with 2x2 photo and comprehensive resumé must be received **no later than July 14, 2006.**

Human Resources Division
P.O. Box EA 423
1000 Ermita, Manila

FEMALE SECRETARY

21-30 years old, good communication skills, pleasing personality, work experience in non-life insurance a plus. Apply Unit C5 G/F Harrison Plaza Bldg. 2153 Pasong Tamo, Makati City

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More PMAP seminars in July

THE PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT ASSOciation of the Philippines is sponsoring three-day workshop on Competency Design and Development Workshop will be held on July 11-13. Registration fee is P7,850 for PMAP member and P9,400 for Non PMAP member.

It is a foundational module designed to prepare the Learners to draft their own specific competency framework plan that will eventually be the starting point of a customised competency framework in their organisations.

Workshop approach will be used extensively with lecturettes to clarify certain points making use of the vast learning experiences of the Learners in the process.

The program entitled Managing the Rewards Management Function is scheduled on July 18. Registration fee is P3,500 for PMAP member and P5,000 for Non PMAP member.

It is an introductory module that focuses on the basic principles and processes of rewards management, from planning, design, administration and communication.

All programs will be held at PMAP Center in Mandaluyong City. For reservations, please contact The Human Resource Management Development Center at telephone numbers 726-1581; 726-1588 or 726-1532; email address: mira.jakosalem@pmap.org.ph or you may visit the website: www.pmap.org.ph

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dz card
(Philippines) Inc.

The Best Full Service Card Manufacturer in Asia

SALES EXECUTIVES

Because of our expansion/sale and in order to give our customer an even better service, **dz card Philippines, Inc.** is looking for personable, responsible and conscientious people who can meet the following qualifications:

- Documented sales experience
- Male or Female
- Age between 25-32 years old
- Preferably single
- A graduate of Marketing or any Business related
- Fluent in English communication, both written and spoken
- Good computer skills with MS Office knowledge
- Good negotiating skills
- With Sense of Initiative, Self-Confidence and can work under pressure
- Should have an established network of contact from within the consumer of card industry

Job descriptions:
- Improve our plastic card sales in the domestic market
- Keep and improve the high level of service to our customers
- Regularly coordinate with clients partners by presenting market updates

Salary is to be set upon negotiation. Interested applicants are required to send their resumé with recent I.D. picture and contact telephone number to:

dz card (Philippines) Inc.
4th Floor, A.C. Raftel Center
8193 Dr. A. Santos Avenue
Parañaque City 1700

Attention: Administration Department

The dz group of companies is in the business of production and sales of ATM cards, credit cards, privilege cards, telephone cards, I.D. cards and chip cards, etc. dz card have factories in Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur and New Delhi with service bureau in Manila and Sales Office in Jakarta. The yearly production is more than 300 million cards, and we export our products all over the world.

dz card is authorized by Visa and MasterCard.

CONTRACT PUBLISHING & MARKETING, INC.

A fast-growing company engaged in the creation of print communications materials is in need of young, passionate individuals for the following positions:

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER

QUALIFICATIONS:

- At least 5 years extensive experience in advertising sales, client relations, sales or marketing especially in print communications, as well as outdoor and transit ads.
- Has the ability to influence and relate to decision-makers in all levels of the organization to achieve desired outcomes.
- With excellent oral, presentation, and written communication skills.
- Outstanding interpersonal with strong selling and account management skills.
- Proven leadership ability, self-motivated, results-driven, problem-solving and analytical skills, highly service-oriented.
- Must also have project management skills, an effective team leader and good motivator.
- Extensive contacts among Brand Managers and Media Buyers a plus.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Male or Female, not over 35 years old
- Must possess at least a Bachelor's/ College Degree in Business, Marketing, Communications or equivalent.
- Having own transportation is an advantage but not required.
- Applicants should be aggressive and resourceful, flexible, trustworthy, hardworking and can deal well with pressure
- Must be willing to work in Libis, Quezon City
- Full-time position available

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

QUALIFICATIONS:

- At least 2-3 years in sales or marketing experience preferably advertising-related
- Can liaise and work effectively with team members, external clients, organizations and advertising agencies.
- With background in prospecting potential clients.
- Excellent communication skills and good interpersonal skills.
- Extensive contacts among Brand Managers and Media Buyers a plus

REQUIREMENTS:

- Female, not over 30 years old.
- Must possess at least a Bachelor's/ College Degree in Business, Marketing, Communications or equivalent.
- Applicants must be willing to do field work
- Flexible, trustworthy, hardworking and can deal well with pressure and with minimum supervision.
- Must be willing to work in Libis, Quezon City

GOOD COMPENSATION PACKAGE AWAITS SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS (BASIC SALARY + COMMISSION + ALLOWANCES)
WALK-IN APPLICANTS ARE PREFERRED FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT

Please forward your resume with 2x2 ID picture to.

CONTRACT PUBLISHING
AND MARKETING INC.
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BAGONG BAYAN, QUEZON CITY

Tel. Nos. 6343610-12 Fax No. 3250481
Email : cpmi@pldtdsl.net
Contact person · Ms. Suzette Enilo

Ito ang alalay ko sa buhay!

COUNTRY BANKERS LIFE
INSURANCE CORPORATION

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is advertising your thing?

We're searching for an **Account Manager**, with at least 2 to 3 years of ad agency experience who will be charged with strengthening client relations, creating strategies and growing the business; a **Senior Copywriter** who can generate and present selling, compelling concepts, for both advertising and PR projects; an **F/A Artist** skilled in the technical side of electronic art for production; a **Print Production / Traffic Manager** who will coordinate with F/A artists and suppliers, who can effectively implement quality management of printing jobs and efficiently do traffic management of incoming and outgoing projects. Positions must be filled up by July 31, 2006.

Interested applicants may e-mail resumes and portfolios to **careeropp@espressodesign.biz**.

TRILOGIE
INTERNATIONAL TRADING

IS IN IMMEDIATE NEED OF THE FOLLOWING FOR ITS CASINO-HOTEL FOOD SERVICE (direct hiring)

A. **CASINO FOOD ATTENDANTS/GUEST SERVICE ASSOCIATES** – 21 to 27 y/o fem, at least 5'5" in ht or male at least 5'8" in ht.College grad.,at least 6mos. exp. in F&B industry,w/good com.skills,smart & hardworking,w/pleasing personality,& willing to be trained.
B. **SHIFT SUPERVISOR** – 28-35 y/o,M/F,grad of BSHRM or its related course,w/at least 2yrs Supervisory exp.,w/good leadership skills.
C. **COUNTER PERSONNEL** – 21-27 y/0 fem, at least 5'3" ht,College grad.,w/pleasing personality,smart & knowledgable in POS & willing to be trained
D. **BARISTA** – 21-27 y/o,m/f,HRM grad/related course,at least 6mos exp.in related field,willing to be trained,w/pleasing personality
E. **SALES ASSOCIATES** – 21-26 y/o fem.,at least 5'3" in ht.,college grad,exp. in sales & w/good comm. skills
F. **ACCOUNTING STAFF** – 23-30 y/o,m/f,Acctg. Grad.,at least 2 yrs related exp.,comp.literate, hardworking
G. **CHEF/COOK** – 25-40 y/o, m/f, w/vast exp. in preparing Asian & Western cuisines

Please apply personally & bring resume w/picture together with this ad: 4/F Ramon Magsaysay Ctr,Roxas Blvd.,Malate,Manila (in front of Diamond Hotel)or call 521-3166 local 168.Look for Ms. Gena

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Floor Finish - Floor Level (FF-FL), Inc.
is a fast developing construction company here in the Philippines specializing in Concrete (both structural & architectural works).

We are currently seeking a highly motivated individual to fill a

Quantity Surveying Position

The ideal candidate will have both pre and post-contract experience with a contractor.

Should you be interested in the above, please contact:
JOYCE at 840-5343 or 840-5352

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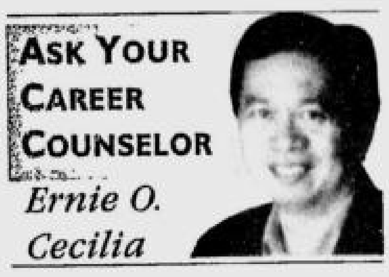
PEOPLE at WORK

Text us your feedback: Inquirer paw name/city/message. Send to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

E-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.

Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Contributing Editor Regina Galang Reyes

'What opportunities in RP await a US-trained Filipino professional?'



ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

Ernie O. Cecilia

MY PARENTS SENT ME TO school in the United States. Honestly, I like it here. But something in me says that I must go back to my native Philippines. Call it naiveté or an iota of nationalism, but I just want to explore opportunities there.

I read your column through the INQ7 website and I thought you could help me understand opportunities that await me in the Philippines. I have a bachelor's degree in the Philippines and a master's degree in Psychology in a known university in the US. I have no solid working experience in the corporate world, although I have been exposed to it through my thesis and dissertation. I think I can contribute in the area of consumer behavior for marketing purposes.

You may publish my letter but please don't give out my identity.

Raring to Go Back

It is heartening to hear from someone who wants to go back to his or her roots, even for unsure reasons. After all these years and after all the mess we're in, I am still gung ho about the Philippines. I might be more naïve than you, but I can't think of a moment when I gave up on the Philippines, in my mind and in my heart. Despite my close associations and friendships with many foreign nationals who entice me to stay in their own land, I have always opted to stay in the Philippines.

Let me try to help you get a better understanding about your opportunities, here or elsewhere.

Know what you want to be

I think you have had a thorough preparation by way of advanced studies in order to find work worthy of your stature. That's where we differ. I had been working practically since childhood in order to find the right education I can have. Perhaps, you are better prepared than I to tackle the challenges of the corporate world.

But, to succeed in your chosen career, you must first know what you want to be. After having amassed that high degree of knowledge and competence, only you can say what you really want to be. If you wish to work in a marketing corporation that will benefit from the depth and breadth of your knowledge about consumer behavior, I guess there are great companies just raring to hire you. With your qualifications, you need not take on an entry level position in marketing or marketing research. If you do well, you could be a marketing head of a large multinational in five years or less.

But, is that what you want in life? Or maybe, you wish to set up your own consulting firm, or marketing firm? (If you tell me more about your dreams, I can help you more in making them a reality.)

Set a career target

If you decide to enter the corporate world, I would suggest that you work to learn. Of course, everybody else works to earn. If you opt to work to earn, you'll soon realize that it is very difficult to work for money. So, when you enter the corporate world, just work to learn—and understand how to make money. Soon, you will realize that it is better to make money work for you than to work for money.

Make a good sales pitch

If you wish to make big money as an employee, I have only two words for you. First, look for a company willing to pay big money. Then, move to a position that pays big money. Failing that, you'll just be a pitiful pawn in the rat race.

Whether you are applying for a new job, or wishing to get promoted, always remember that you are for sale. Of course, you know that the product that sells best is one that creates value in exchange for the consumer's money, is well-packaged, and delivers on its value proposition.

In your resumé, and in every dealing you will have with the company or with your boss, always remember to make a good sales pitch. Always send a subliminal message that you are the best and that your employer is getting the best out of you. Failing that, you will just remain a nameless face in the crowd of ordinary people.

Live again as a Filipino

If you wish to apply with a multinational located in the Philippines, you can write or e-mail responsible officers directly or patch up with headhunters. Write a one-page resumé that sells. Highlight your competencies and what you can do, since you practically have no work experience yet.

If you get hired in the Philippines, I guess you will live again as a Filipino. I don't know how long you have been away, or if you are updated about the Philippines, apart from what you hear from CNN.

There are great ways to get integrated again. One way is through BalikPinas.com, a multi-purpose cooperative of Filipino professionals here and abroad, whose aim is to enhance the interest of Filipino professionals and their families. They offer service, advice and products and ways to get together for the busy OFW, Filipino expats and their families. They even offer advice or assistance to families who want to learn how to take care of the OFW's hard-earned money. Check out their website.

Passion

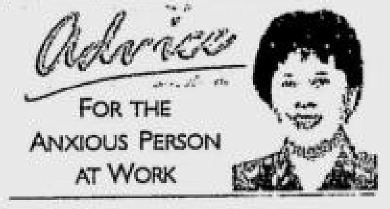
Whatever you decide to do with your life, always seek your passion. Most successful people do what they love and love what they do.

(Public service announcement: "Tiripon 2006, a grand alumni homecoming of the University of Nueva Caceres, Naga City, will be held on Sept. 9. Alumni from all levels are invited to attend. Please e-mail me for details.)

(Mr. Cecilia is the president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a human resource consulting firm. He was the president of Personnel Management Association of the Philippines or PMAP in 1999. His career books are available at popular bookstores. Send feedback to ernie_cecilia@yahoo.com.)

'I get very tense during interviews!'

By Tita Datu Puangco



Advice FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

GOOD DAY! I'M 20 YEARS OLD and a fresh graduate. I just graduated last month. I've never been employed even in a part-time job. I started applying for a job even before I graduated. However, I am unemployed until now. I always pass the exams but I usually don't make it to the final interview. In my last interview, the interviewer told me that I have a problem with my voice. I was not aware of it until she told me. She, however, gave me a chance to move on to the next interview. I think I did well in the next interview but until now I have not yet received a phone call from them making me doubt if I really did well. My friend said that God is only testing my patience. I will try my very best not to lose hope in finding a job.

I tried to analyze what is the problem with me. I tried to recall my past interviews and I discovered that whenever I'm tense, my voice fades. Aside from that, I'm having difficulty in expressing my thoughts in a precise manner because I'm nervous. My other friend told me that it's a good thing when you feel tense because it could mean that there is a possibility of getting hired. But when I am tense, I tend to talk too much. One time, I really felt so tense that I wanted very much to get over the interview. I passed that initial interview but flunked in the final interview.

Can you please give some tips on how to answer concisely and comfortably during interviews? Thank you very much for reading my letter. I look forward to your reply. Thanks a lot. God bless!

Nervous Applicant

You have not found a job because you do not pass the interviews. You have a problem with your voice that tends to fade when you are tense. Here are some pointers for you.

First, prepare for the interview. Try to anticipate the questions that the interviewer will ask. These questions would consist of two subjects: your resumé and the job that you are applying for. Typically, the interviewer will be asking behavior-based questions. She or he is trying to surface positive or negative incidents from your past experiences that will highlight particular job dimensions or competencies. You have gone through several job interviews. Try to recall and make a list of the interview questions.

Next, practice and rehearse. Ask a qualified person, preferably a human resource practitioner or manager friend to act as interviewer. She or he will ask the questions and you will answer. After your rehearsal, ask for feedback on the quality of your answers. She or he can suggest how you can improve your replies in questions where you fall short.

When tense, try to take deep breaths and slowly release to relax your body, specially your vocal chords. Try to keep a low voice so that you do not strain. Your voice will fade if your vocal chords are tight, strained and high-pitched. Then make sure you go to the interview venue 15 minutes before the actual interview so you have time to relax and visualize yourself speaking with confidence and competence.

Second, consider the question asked before answering. You want to say the right things, but not too much to tire your interviewer. Why do you overtalk? It may be that your stress is causing you to ramble. Or you have so much to say you are not able get your thoughts organized. My suggestion is for you to slow down and listen being conscious and vigilant of what you are saying.

Third, if you want to do something about your voice, you can call us and we can set you for a diagnosis with one of our English language consultants. By the way, you also have to be careful with grammar. I noted and corrected several grammar errors in your letter.

Finally, wishing you all the best for your next interview. God bless.

(Ms Puangco is CEO of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, a training and consulting company specializing in strategy management, leading change, human resource systems, leadership and enterprise training. For your feedback, e-mail: advice@ancillaedc.com.ph *or fax 892-2902. You may also check Ms Puangco's blog at* www.pinoyatwork.livejournal.com. *For other inquiries, please call 892-2895, 892-2896 or 892-2898.)*

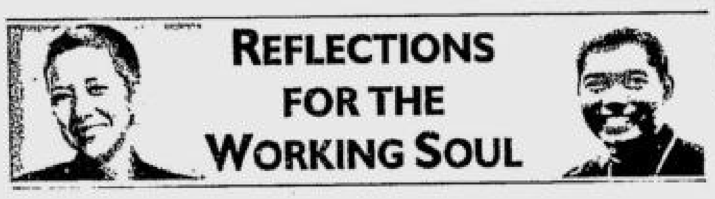
The carpenter

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

A CARPENTER WHO WOULD READ TODAY'S GOSPEL would probably feel he stands taller than other workers knowing that Jesus, the great Jesus of history and the Lord of the Universe, is identified as "the carpenter." And I think that every worker could also take pride in his being a worker if he considers that this Jesus, the greatest of all men, did work and made work as part of His life. Furthermore, to believe that Jesus is God and not only man, the greatest at that, should all the more increase the worker's appreciation of the importance of work in his life. A carpenter and any worker for that matter could really look at himself as having great worth and dignity.

Having a high regard for oneself, and appreciating one's profession or duties in the workplace or in society are very important factors in the success of one's professional or working life; while those who have low self-esteem and have little understanding of the value of their jobs are prone to suffering from boredom in life and lack of zest or motivation for living. It is therefore essential that the company give great priority in the building up of the self-esteem and confidence in everyone of its workers.

While company-sponsored group dynamics and self-development programs could help raise the level of the workers' self-esteem and confidence, there is no substitute for the personal and individual process that each worker has to work out within him which should include his intimate relationship with Jesus, who is not only "the carpenter" but the Master who is ever ready to form any willing disciple even among the "ordinary" workers. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)



REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

Are we what we do?

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

DO WE REALIZE HOW IMPORTANT OUR WORK IS? How it identifies us, gives a clue to who we are and our worth as members of society? See—as today's Gospel story hints at, a man is known, remembered, and categorized by the work he does. People asked, "Is he not the carpenter ...?" practically berating Jesus for having shown exceptional knowledge and having wrought miracles when He was perhaps but an unknown maker of furniture.

This simply demonstrates that in as early as Jesus' time a person's worth was already determined by the value of his social or economic contribution to the community. There was even a time in America and Europe when people chose family names according to their craft, thus there came to be Smith (goldsmith, blacksmith, tinsmith, etc.), Carpenter, Barber, Mason, Schumacher (shoemaker), etc. And in our very day—listen to ourselves at family reunions: "Oh, are you the son of *Ka* Amin, the dentist? My, how you've grown! Are you the second or third child ...? Oh, the fourth! Are you also a dentist? What do you do now? Accountant! Who's the doctor? Ah, the eldest! And the second? Oh, that's the dentist ... yes I remember now... And the third is an engineer who became vice president of Caltex ...?" Also, when people are introduced, what they ask after the initial "Hello!" or "Nice to meet you!" is "What do you do? Where do you work?" not "Do you believe in the 'Our Father'...?"

Yes, our work could typecast us unfairly if we're not careful—because work is that important. But as Jesus shows, what's more important is how we do our work. He is the model of the consummate worker: unperturbed in His mission, faithful to God's will, enriching humanity with the fruit of the love He put in His work. (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Gospel: Mk. 6:1-6

"Is he not the carpenter, the son of Mary, and the brother of James and Moses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?"

PFA presents RP's biggest franchise show of 2006

AS THE PHILIPPINE FRANCHISING SECtor continues to show vibrant growth that effectively contributed to the economy, the challenge for the Philippine Franchise Association (PFA) is how to help its members keep up with global and local challenges amidst growing intense competition.

This was disclosed by Alegria Bing S. Limjoco and Robert F. Trota, PFA chair and president, respectively, in a statement.

Franchising growth in the country has been phenomenal, a far cry from when it started in the early '90s when there were just around 40 to 50 franchise concepts. Today we see around 900 concepts, both local and international, Limjoco added. Food still continues to be the major sector at 45 percent, with the balance represented by the retail and service sectors.

Trota, currently president of Max's Restaurant, the 60-year-old chain of Filipino restaurants better known for the "House That Fried Chicken Built", shares local entrepreneurs' confidence in franchising as business strategy for growth.

Franchising has been used by many businesses as an expansion strategy for various reasons, including optimization of investments, dispersion of risks as well as tapping of competencies not available within one's organization, he noted.

The country's pioneer and the only internationally recognized franchise association is currently in the thick of preparations for the premier international franchise show this July at the Hotel Philippine Plaza and the World Trade Center Manila.

Today's biggest and the longest-running one-stop shop franchise show in the Philippines, Franchise 2006, the Philippine International Franchise Conference and Expo (Pifce), offers four events in one: the plenary on July 13 at the Hotel Philippine Plaza; educational sessions and franchise seminars on July 14 and 15 and expo on July 14 to 16 at the World Trade Center. Likewise, Module I will be offered under the Certified Franchise Executive (CFE) Program, a mini–MBA course on Franchise Management offered by the International Certified Franchise Executives on July 11 and 12 at the Asian Institute of Management Policy Center. For inquiries, call the PFA secretariat at 687-0365-67, 0917-8320732, e-mail pfa@nwave.net or log on to www.philippinefranchiseassociation.com

Robert T. Justis, the "father of US franchising and small businesses" and a known lecturer/consultant and textbook author on franchising, leads the distinguished local and international experts and gurus who will tackle new and exciting topics on the latest global franchising trends and developments, business strategies and success formula. The virtual who's who list includes Samie Lim, chair emeritus – PFA/vice-chair for tourism, franchising and retailing – PCCI on "Global Franchise Updates and Opportunities"; Judy Reinke, Counselor of Embassy for Commercial Affairs – US Embassy Manila on "International Expansion in the East Asia Pacific Region"; Dr. Federico Macaranas, executive director – AIM Policy Center on "Most Friendly Cities to do Business"; Raffy dela Rosa, president – Chowking Foods Corp on "Financial Benchmarking: What to Measure and Why"; Josiah Go, chair/chief marketing strategist – Mansmith and Fielders on "Advertising Today: Panel of Experts"; Benedict Cid Jr, managing director – AC Nielsen (Philippines) Inc on "Meeting Consumer Movements"; Virgilio Espeleta, president/COO – Julie's Bakeshop on "Options during Economic Crunch"; Andrew CK Ma, Asia-Pacific brand manager – IBM on "IBM POS Systems"; Vivienne Tan, founder – Entrepreneurial School of Asia on "How to Develop an Entrepreneurial Mind"; Dr. Roberto de Vera, director – Urban Strategies Group, UA&P on "Urban Markets"; Henry Tan, tax compliance partner – SGV & Co on "Tax Updates Relevant to the Franchising Industry"; and Pinky Yee, marketing director – Goldilocks together with Ferdinand Joson, general manager – Folded & Hung on "Formulas for Success: A Panel of Experts".

Considered as springboard for emerging concepts, franchise expo this year is bigger and even better as it occupies two halls of the World Trade Center, showcasing a wide variety of local and international concepts in food, retail and service. Trota added. Franchise 2006 expo will also feature a FEA pavilion which showcases the winners of the recently concluded Franchise Excellence Awards (FEA) 2005; an international pavilion that showcases different concepts from Asia and the Asia- Pacific regions and the emerging homegrown concepts which are now ready to expand and grow thru franchising. The Pifce expo will also feature suppliers and allied services who intend to do business with franchise businesses.

New features and services have been added to this year's expo, all expected to bring franchising to the next level. At the PFA Lounge, visitors and franchise enthusiasts will have the opportunity to avail themselves of free professional services on issues that include the legal aspects/ requirements of franchising, intellectual property rights, taxation and other relevant matters pertaining to franchising. Students and would-be entrepreneurs could also avail themselves of the free seminars on Franchising 101 and Financing Facilities for SMEs on July 15 at the Activity Area. Those who wish to expand their business and wish to acquire a franchise may register in the "How to Franchise your Business" and "A to Z's of Buying the Right Franchise" seminars on the same date.

Occupying two halls of the WTC and with more space for allied businesses and suppliers, this year's expo is expected to equal, if not surpass, Franchise 2005, which was flocked by more than 18,000 visitors and generated over P197 million worth of businesses. Pifce 2006 is being chaired by Elizabeth Orbeta, VP-government relations and advocacy-PFA/president, Wenphil Corp (Wendy's), and co-chaired by Manuel Siggaot, VP-Finance-PFA/chair–Manels Leathergoods Corp.

Co-presented by PLDT Business Solutions, Franchise 2006 is a joint undertaking by the PFA and the Department of Trade and Industry and supported by HSBC, Julie's Bakeshop, Max's, Greenwich, Goldilocks, Red Ribbon, Chowking, Nestle, San Miguel Corp, IBM, Francorp, Furnicon, Montanara, Qualiplus, Ayala Land, Araneta Malls, Shangri-la Malls, Robinsons Malls, Entrepreneur Philippines, All Visuals, Del Monte, Sports House and Energy FM.

Brave female warrior in food manufacturing

By Danilo P. Cruz

First of a series

WHEN GOD CREATED woman and Japan began recruiting trainees from the Philippines, the plan didn't include a problematic, single parent from Luzon.

GARCIA

Then came Norita Q. Garcia.

A 44-year old single parent with two daughters and a son from Ulango, Calamba, Laguna stands out firm and with poise in an arena dominated by men as determined and committed to go to Japan through the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) – Japan International Training Cooperation Organization (Jitco) skills technology transfer project.

An ambitious and diligent young girl then, Nory, finished high school in Laguna Institute but failed to continue to college due to financial problems.

But poverty did not stop Nory's inclination to become progressive in life. She began by working at Gene's Food Shoppe, a food processing company in the town center.

Her efficiency, honesty and diligence in performing her tasks resulted in her nomination from the company to go on further training in Japan through Rikou International Development Foundation Inc. a Tesda-accredited sending organization. She was received by East Aichi Network Association, Japan's accepting organization.

Having attended workshops in food processing in the Philippines, Nory readily noticed differences with Japanese technology. She gained more knowledge and values.

She learned how to manage time wisely along with punctuality. Her training not only enhanced her skills but also changed her attitude and discipline. She became more patient that helped her overcome life's obstacles and challenges.

Norita Garcia (center) and her co-trainees at work in a food processing plant of the Chuo Yuso Co. in Japan.

She returned home full of joy and satisfaction, not only financially but more on well-being. She confidently put into practice all the learning she acquired from Chuo Yuso Company, her accepting firm in Japan.

Nory put up a piggery, from which she intends to start a food manufacturing shop, a field of work she specialized in Japan. In the meantime she joined her brother in his scrap buying business, which has brought in substantial income from the mountains of trash in Payatas.

She does not only focus on her economic status but she also participates in civic voluntary work as a member of a religious and community organization. Because of her close family ties, she is being looked up to despite being a single parent.

To be continued

GLOBAL EXCELLENCE HUMAN RESOURCES ACADEMY INC inauguration on June 14, located at Rooms 306-308 was graced by the presence of invited guests and friends in the industry. Photo shown (from right) Jesse Rebustillo and Lulu Diaz of Philippine Daily Inquirer, Rafael S. Chico, chair and CEO of Global Excellence, lawyer. Giovanni Melgar, president of Philippine Association of Local Service Contractors and Abraham C. Chico, corporate treasurer and VP-Operations of Global.

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- Lyndon B. Johnson

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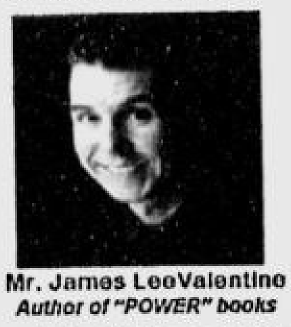
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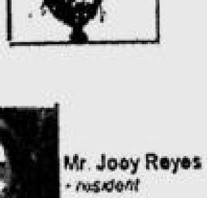
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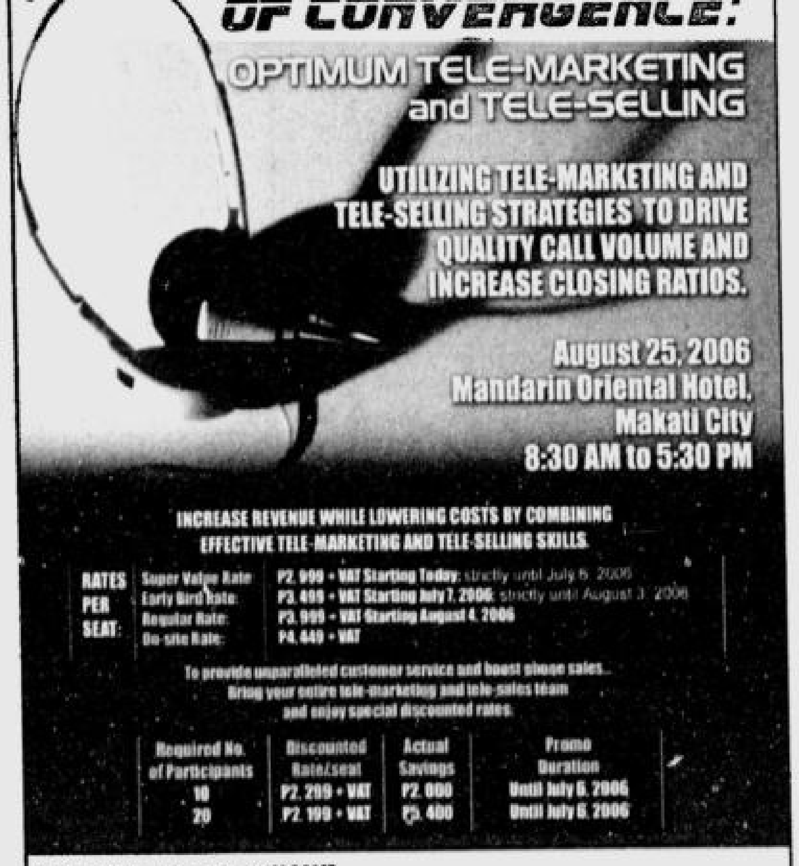
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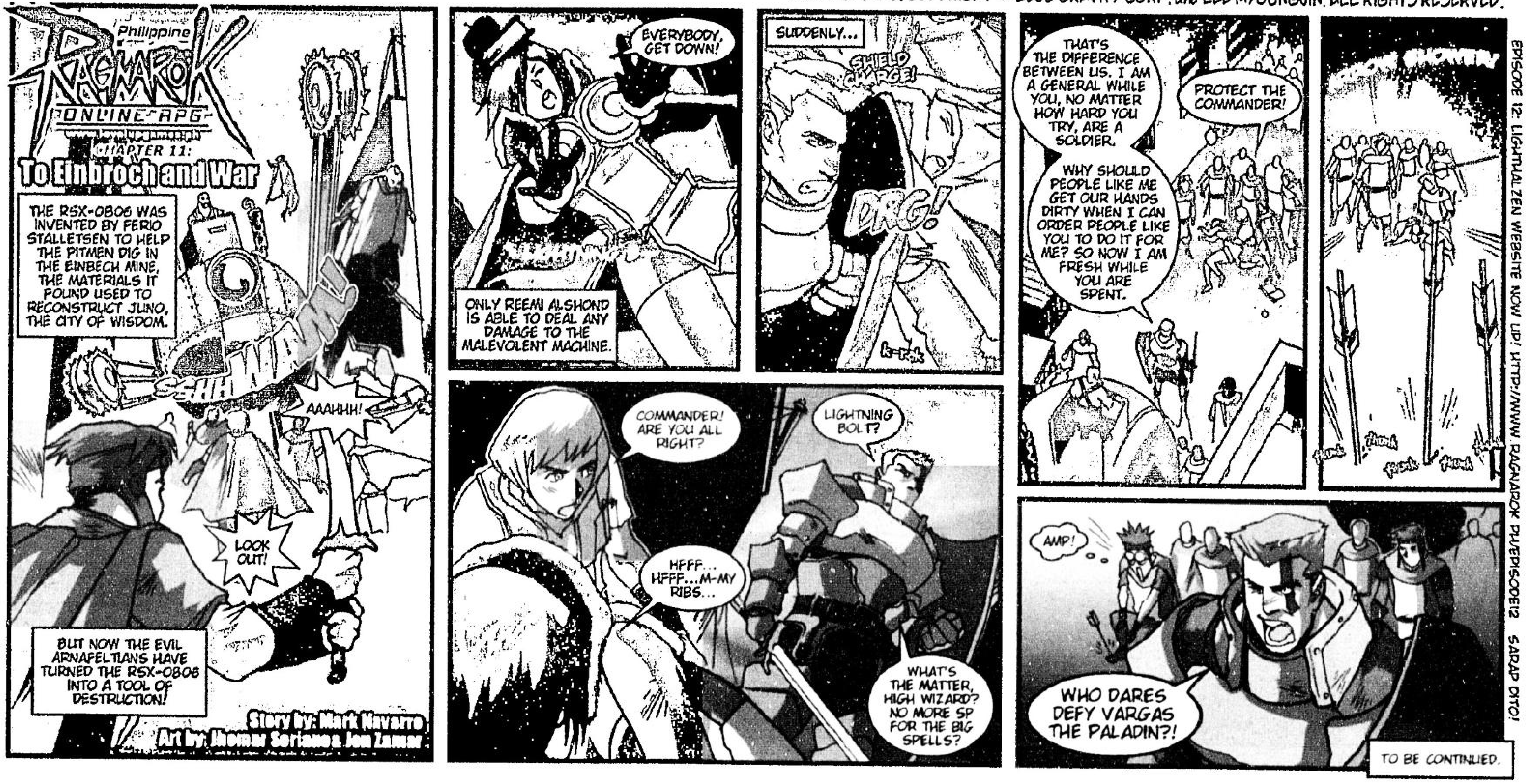
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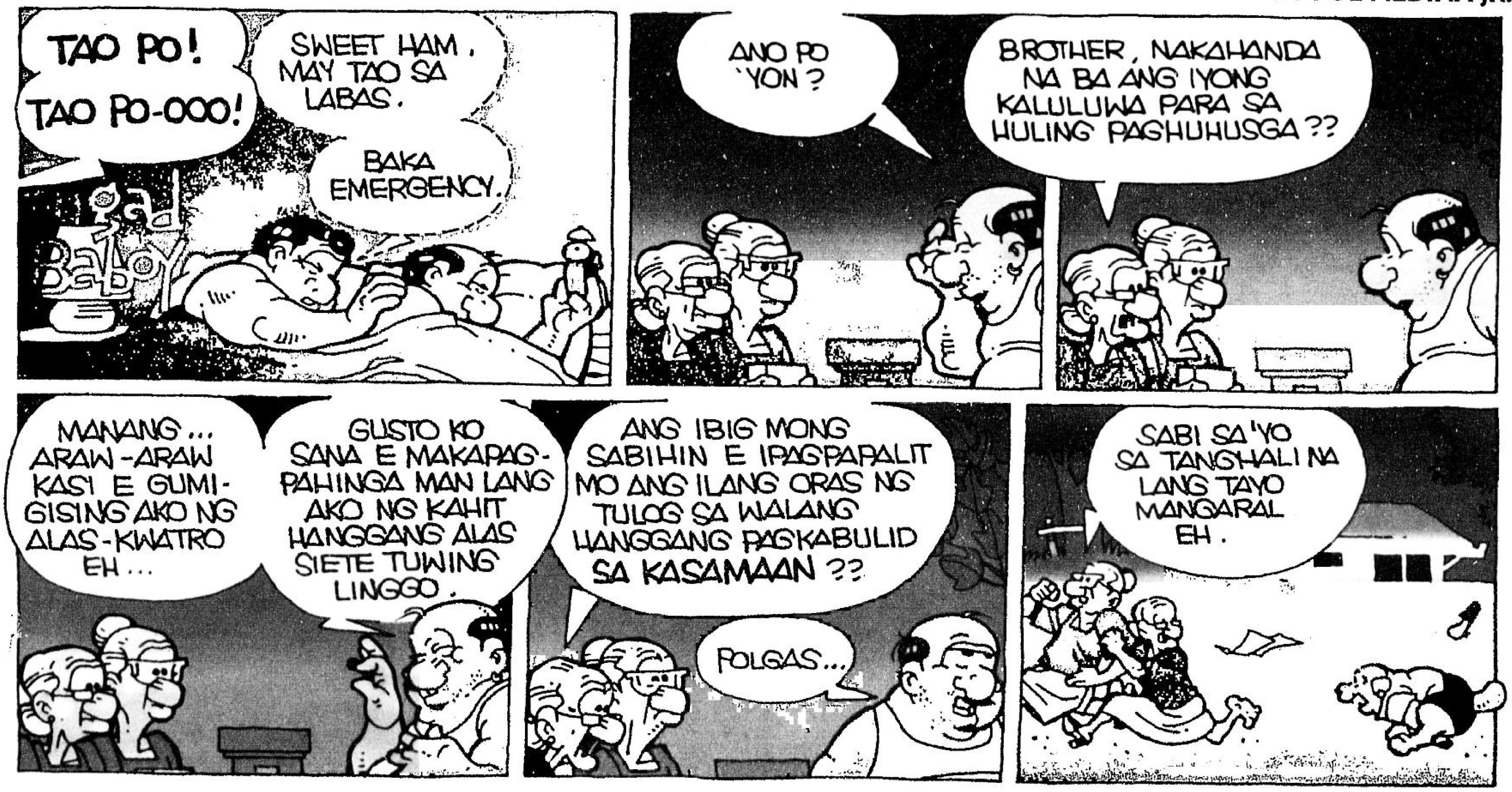
SHHWANG!
AAAHHH!
LOOK OUT!
BUT NOW THE EVIL ARNAFELTIANS HAVE TURNED THE RSX-0808 INTO A TOOL OF DESTRUCTION!
Story by: Mark Navarro
Art by: Jhomar Soriano & Jon Zamar
EVERYBODY, GET DOWN!
ONLY REEMI ALSHOND IS ABLE TO DEAL ANY DAMAGE TO THE MALEVOLENT MACHINE.
SUDDENLY...
SHIELD CHARGE!
DRG!
k-rok
COMMANDER! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
LIGHTNING BOLT?
HFFF... HFFF...M-MY RIBS...
WHAT'S THE MATTER, HIGH WIZARD? NO MORE SP FOR THE BIG SPELLS?
THAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US. I AM A GENERAL WHILE YOU, NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU TRY, ARE A SOLDIER.
WHY SHOULD PEOPLE LIKE ME GET OUR HANDS DIRTY WHEN I CAN ORDER PEOPLE LIKE YOU TO DO IT FOR ME? SO NOW I AM FRESH WHILE YOU ARE SPENT.
PROTECT THE COMMANDER!
SHOWW
thunk thunk thunk thunk thunk
AMP!
WHO DARES DEFY VARGAS THE PALADIN?!
TO BE CONTINUED.
EPISODE 12: LIGHTHALZEN WEBSITE NOW UP! HTTP://WWW.RAGNAROK.PH/EPISODE12 SARAP DITO!

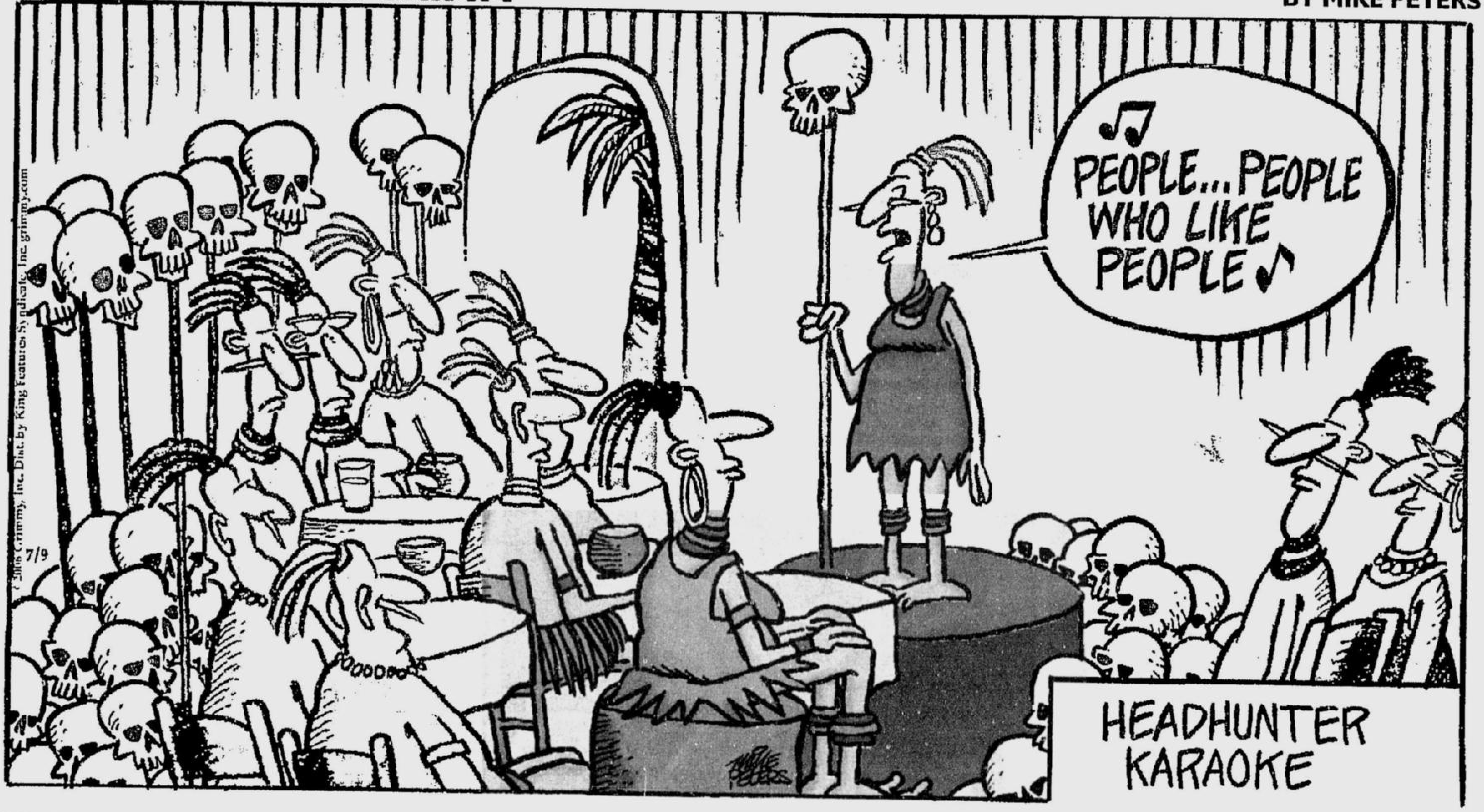
PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.


TAO PO! TAO PO-OOO!
SWEET HAM, MAY TAO SA LABAS.
BAKA EMERGENCY.
Pugad Baboy
ANO PO 'YON?
BROTHER, NAKAHANDA NA BA ANG IYONG KALULUWA PARA SA HULING PAGHUHUSGA??
MANANG... ARAW-ARAW KASI E GUMIGISING AKO NG ALAS-KWATRO EH...
GUSTO KO SANA E MAKAPAGPAHINGA MAN LANG AKO NG KAHIT HANGGANG ALAS SIETE TUWING LINGGO.
ANG IBIG MONG SABIHIN E IPAGPAPALIT MO ANG ILANG ORAS NG TULOG SA WALANG HANGGANG PAGKABULID SA KASAMAAN??
POLGAS...
SABI SA'YO SA TANGHALI NA LANG TAYO MANGARAL EH.

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


♫ PEOPLE... PEOPLE WHO LIKE PEOPLE ♪
HEADHUNTER KARAOKE
7/9
MIKE PETERS

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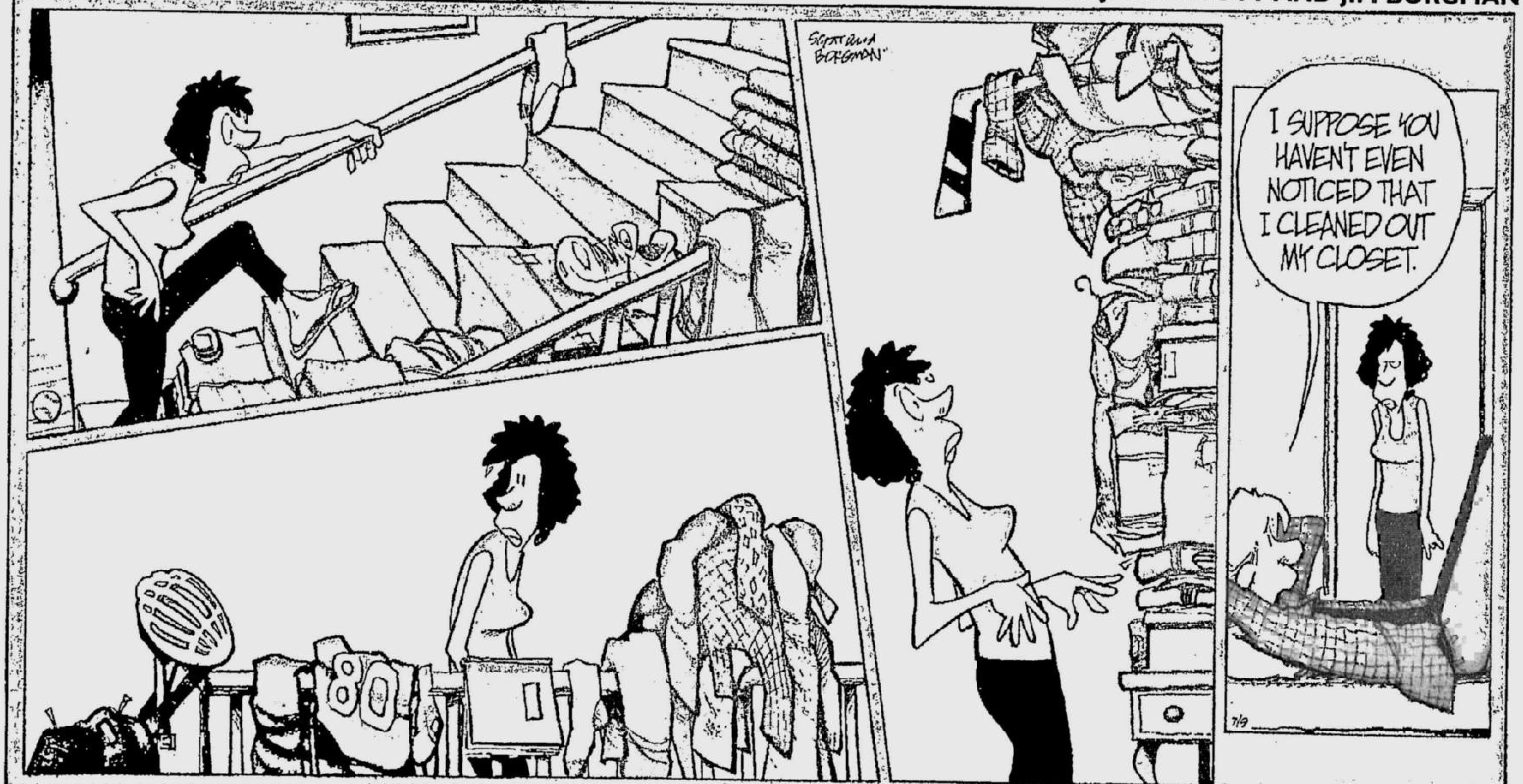
ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN


SCOTT and BORGMAN
I SUPPOSE YOU HAVEN'T EVEN NOTICED THAT I CLEANED OUT MY CLOSET.
80
7/9

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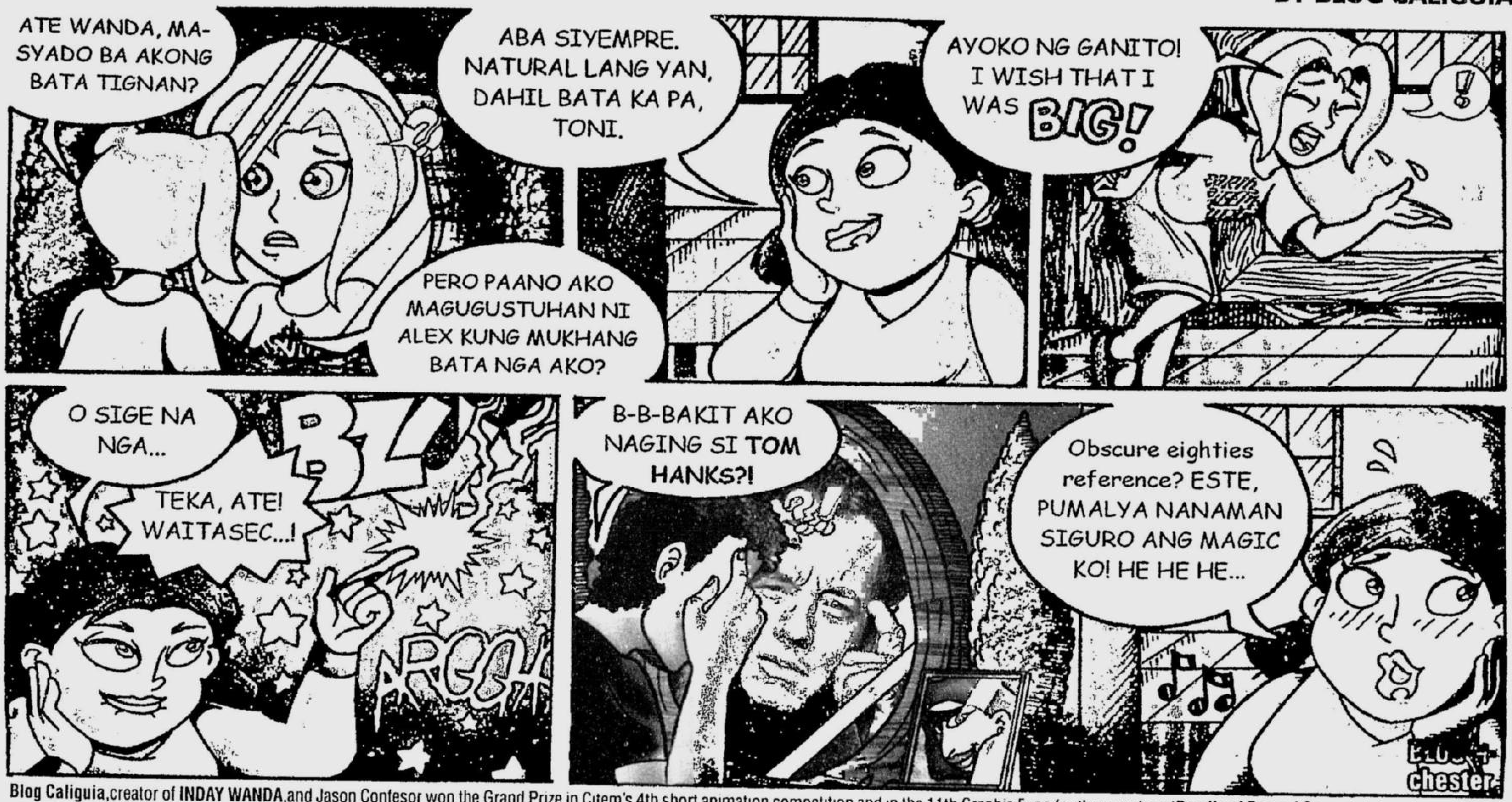
INDAY WANDA

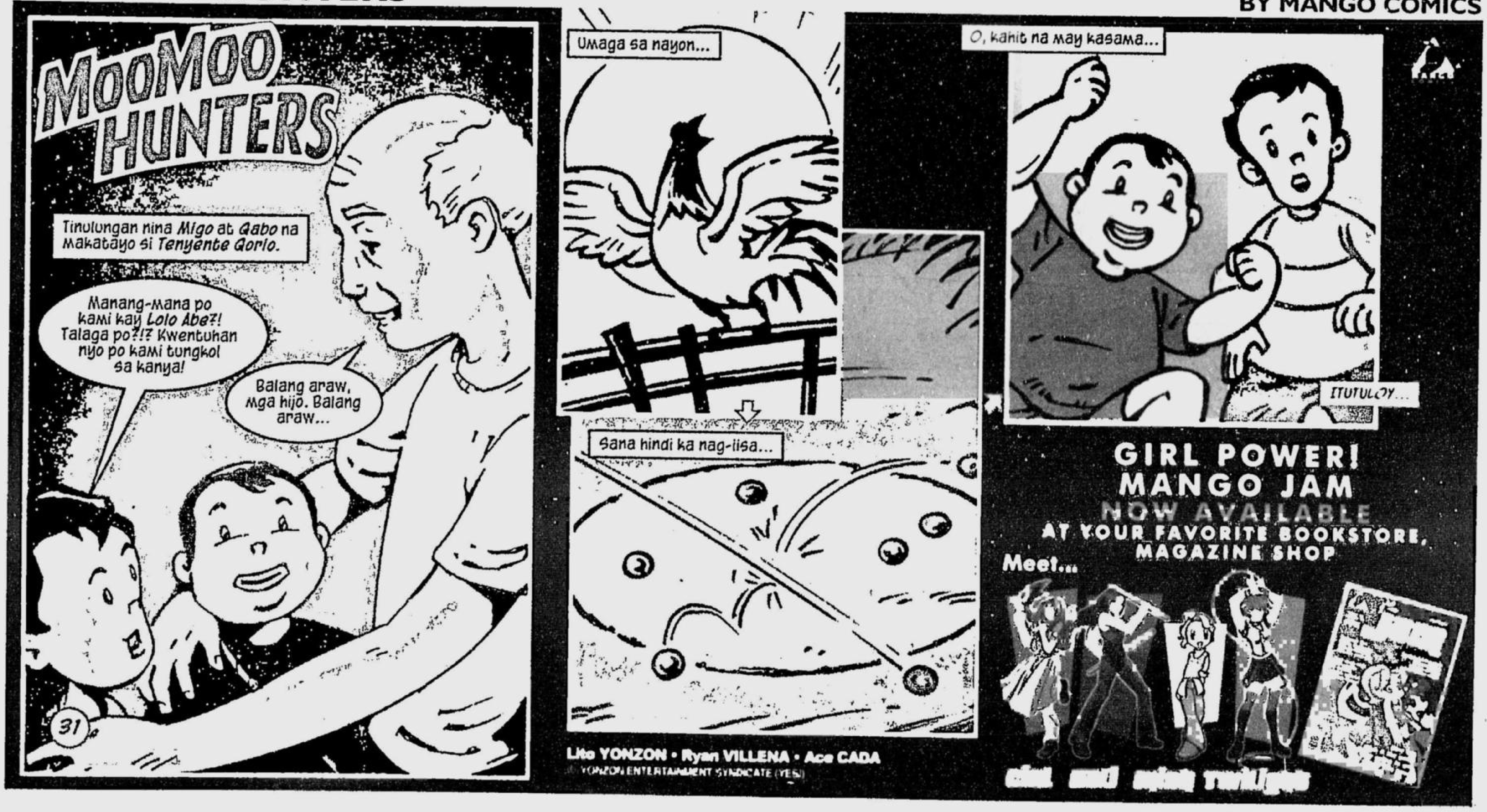
BY BLOG CALIGUIA


ATE WANDA, MASYADO BA AKONG BATA TIGNAN?
ABA SIYEMPRE. NATURAL LANG YAN, DAHIL BATA KA PA, TONI.
PERO PAANO AKO MAGUGUSTUHAN NI ALEX KUNG MUKHANG BATA NGA AKO?
AYOKO NG GANITO! I WISH THAT I WAS BIG!
!
O SIGE NA NGA...
TEKA, ATE! WAITASEC...!
BZZ
ARGGH
B-B-BAKIT AKO NAGING SI TOM HANKS?!
Obscure eighties reference? ESTE, PUMALYA NANAMAN SIGURO ANG MAGIC KO! HE HE HE...
BLOG + chester

Blog Caliguia, creator of **INDAY WANDA**, and Jason Confesor won the Grand Prize in Citem's 4th short animation competition and in the 11th Graphic Expo for their work on **'Doodle of Doom.'** Congratulations!

MOOMOO HUNTERS

BY MANGO COMICS


MooMoo HUNTERS
Tinulungan nina Migo at Qabo na makatayo si Tenyente Qorio.
Manang-mana po kami kay Lolo Abe?! Talaga po?!? Kwentuhan nyo po kami tungkol sa kanya!
Balang araw, mga hijo. Balang araw...
31
Umaga sa nayon...
Sana hindi ka nag-iisa...
O, kahit na may kasama...
ITUTULOY...
Lito YONZON • Ryan VILLENA • Ace CADA
YONZON ENTERTAINMENT SYNDICATE (YES)

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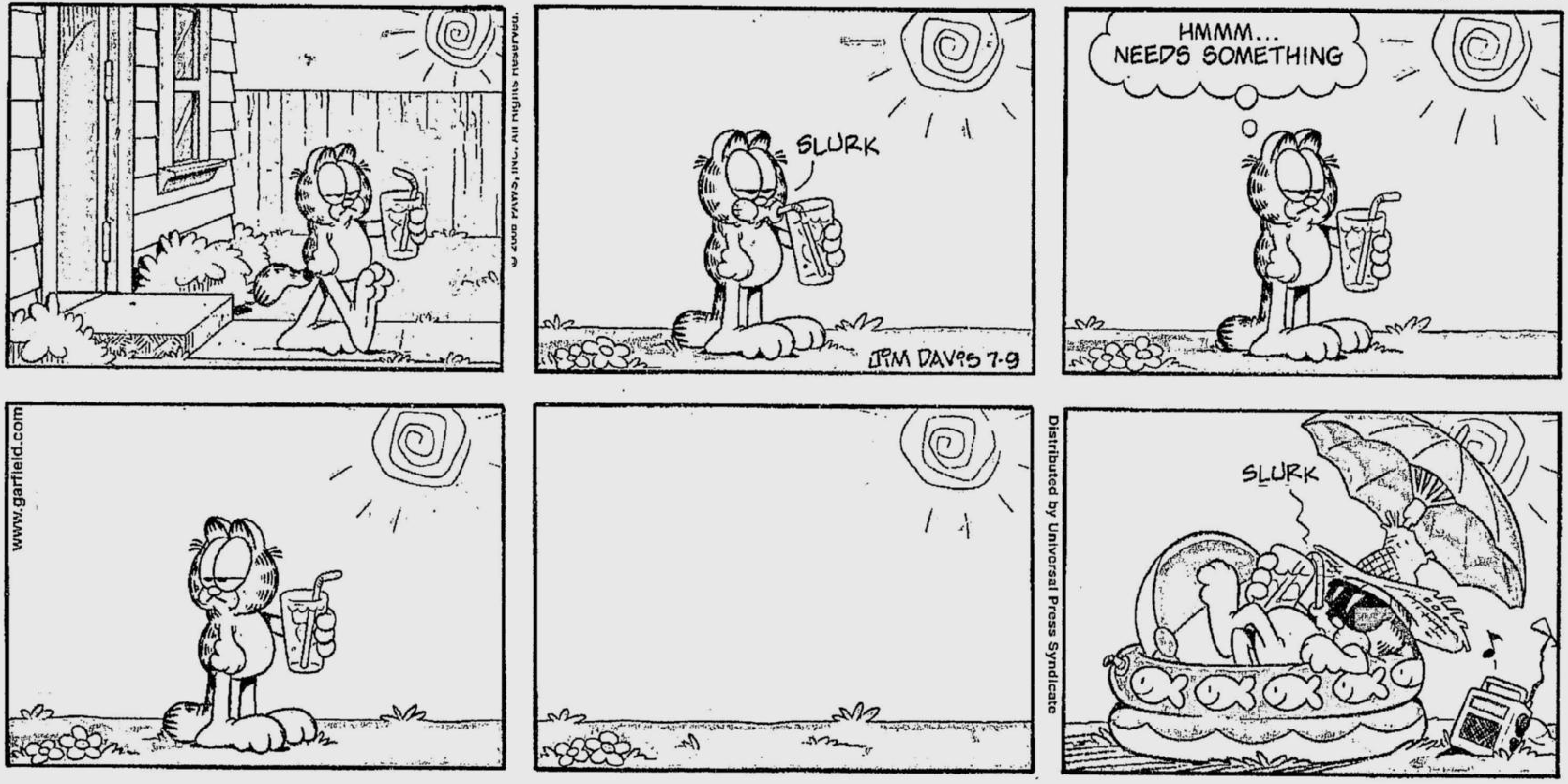
BY JIM DAVIS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SLURK
JIM DAVIS 7-9
HMMM... NEEDS SOMETHING
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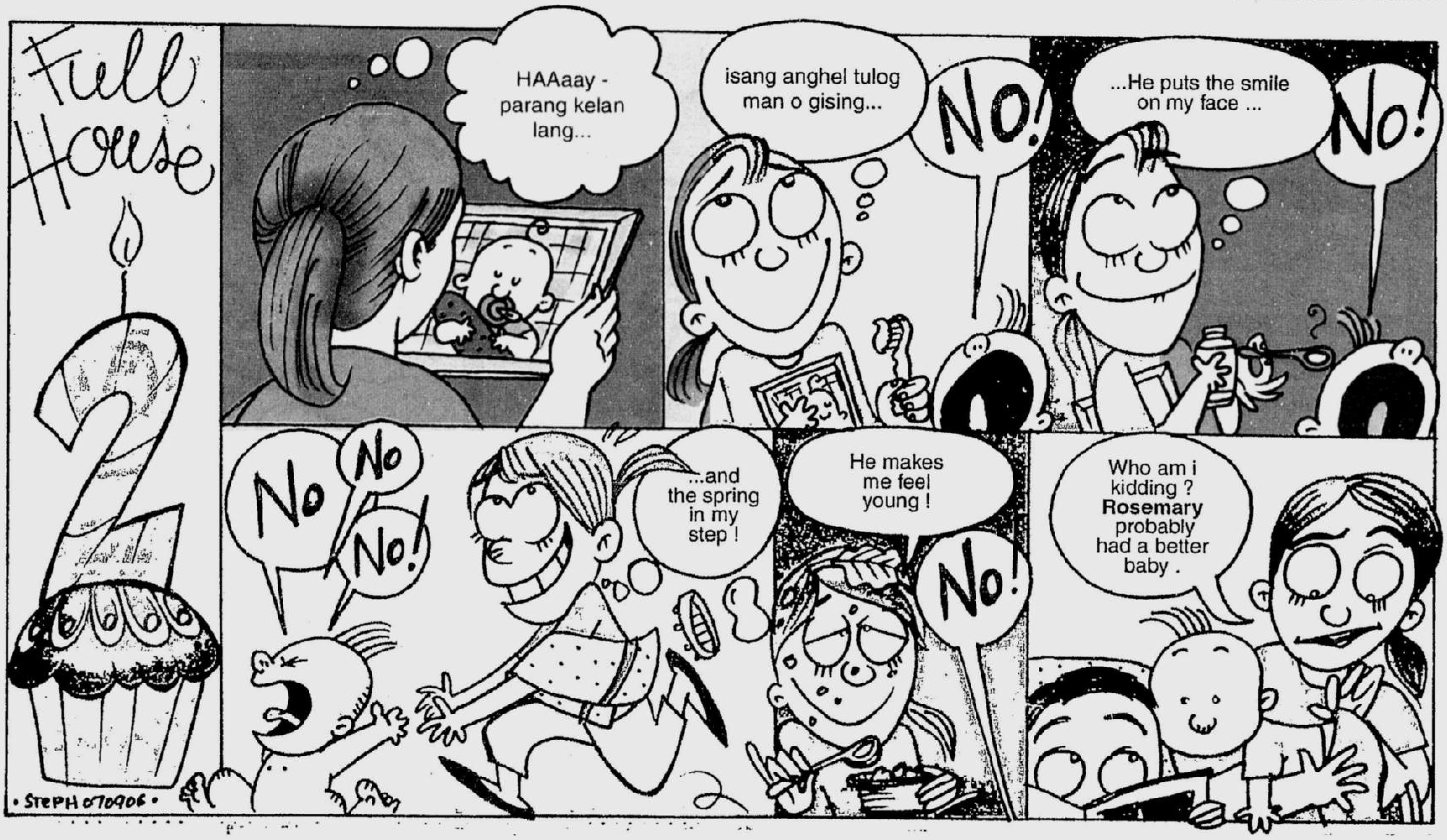
SLURK

FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO


Full House
2
HAAaay - parang kelan lang...
isang anghel tulog man o gising...
No!
...He puts the smile on my face ...
No!
No
No
No!
...and the spring in my step !
He makes me feel young !
No!
Who am i kidding ? Rosemary probably had a better baby .
STEPH 070906

July 9, 2006
sunday INQUIRER magazine
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

Gloria Romero's Glory days far from over

The legendary actress returns to the big screen as the leading lady of 85-year-old Eddie Garcia in 'I Wanna Be Happy' which, in fact, she has achieved on and off screen

by Ces Rodriguez

photographs by Edwin Bacasmas
with photoillustration by La Riba

LORIA Romero can't pose for a photograph.

The 72-year old actress who, with 85-year-old actor Eddie Garcia, has been audaciously cast as lead stars in Joey Javier Reyes' new movie for Seiko Films called "I Wanna Be Happy," is quite the fidgeter.

She props up an enlarged photograph of herself as a 16-year-old, a dewy newbie starring as an extra in movies of Sampaguita Pictures 56 years ago, and cracks a tentative smile. It is stiff and uncomfortable. The actress who never really stopped being in front of the camera for 56 years, who has played every imaginable character from demure leading lady to *komiks* characters to Imelda Marcos to a *multo* in close to 200 movies and then harvested the requisite lifetime achievement awards from the Gawad Urian critics circle to the CineManila International Film Festival, can't find her groove on a still photograph.

Ironically, posters of the young Gloria demurely posed with the leading men of her day—Ric Rodrigo and a callow Ramon Revilla, unrecognizable without the latter-day mustache and oily chumminess, lean against a folding beach chair inside her dressing room at the ABS-CBN Studios where she tapes her weekly sitcom, "OK Fine, Oh Yes" with Aga Muhlach and Edu Manzano.

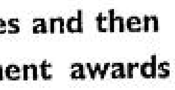
She tilts her head to the right, then to the left. She is unsure of where to put her hands. She tries to hold a smile that wobbles and then finally dissolves as she launches into a mock plaint of how she is so not feeling this little exercise. Of how incredibly self-conscious she is.

Only when she goes into her self-deprecating harangue does the camera really capture Ms. Gloria Romero, relaxed at last.

While many movie stars of her generation have gone to pas-

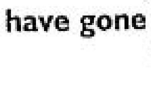
To page 2

Commerce and ice cream, *p.3*



Medicine and mercy, *p.4*

Sports and savvy, *p.5*



Gloria

...from page 1

ture or died, Gloria is the only actress who continues to work steadily to this day. In addition to her new movie and her weekly television show, she is the image model for hairdresser Ricky Reyes who has plastered her laughing face on the Billboard Row that is Edsa with the blurb, "*Ganda ng lola mo!*" In fact, two years ago, Ricky got the septuagenarian Gloria decked as a biker chick when she vroomed onto the main stage of the Cultural Center of the Philippines dressed in leather and straddling a motorcycle. It was to launch Reyes' 2004 ad campaign.

Quite a ride

It's certainly been a quite a ride. Gloria was born on December 16, 1933 in Denver, Colorado, the second of four children born to Pedro Galla, a Filipino who was sent by his parents to the US to study, and Mary Borrego, an American.

When Gloria was 4, the family flew to the Philippines to visit her father's ageing parents in Mabini, Pangasinan. They would stay for a year, her dad promised her mom. "Then, they kept extending until the war broke out," Gloria recalls. "So we were trapped there. We couldn't leave."

More distressing, the family hid her mother in the mountains, well beyond the radar of the occupying Japanese forces. It was reported that she was later brought to a concentration camp.

There was no need for Gloria to elaborate on the toll it must have taken on her mother. At age 28, three days before the Americans landed to end the war, Gloria's mother died. For years, the young American bride pined to return to her home in Colorado. She finally succumbed to "loneliness more than any physical illness," Gloria believes. She was 12 at the time.

PDI FILE

Juancho and Gloria: Love both reel and real

After the war, the family thought they would finally move back to the States. "But my father didn't want to leave mama. She was buried here alone." Her father would remarry years later but had no other children. He died in 1977.

She continued to miss her mother especially after she found fame as a movie star. "I'd go home happy from an event or an awards show and I would wish she were around so I could share my happiness with her," Gloria admits.

After she graduated from high school, Gloria told her father she wanted to be an *artista*. "*Ano ba yang artista na yan* (What is this *artista*)?" her father asked. "We didn't have moviehouses so we had to go to Alaminos to see a movie, about 11 kilometers away from our place in Mabini." Her father didn't know her daughter used to cut classes to watch her favorites on the silver screen: Rogelio de la Rosa, Carmen Rosales, Tessie Quintana.

Pursuing the dream

After the family moved to Manila, Gloria pursued her dream in earnest.

Movie writer Ricky Lo reported that Gloria began her career as an extra in the movies of Premiere Productions, like "Prinsipe Don Juan" starring Anita Linda, and "*Bahay na Tisa*" with Leila Morena. Seeing the willowy young Gloria, Premiere matriarch Doña Adela Santiago told her, "*Magpataba ka muna at saka ka bumalik* (Put on some weight and then come back)."

Gloria never did. Instead she showed up at Sampaguita Studios where her uncle, Nario Rosales, worked as chief editor. Again, Gloria played bit parts before she was noticed in the 1951 movie "*Kasintahan sa Pangarap*," starring Pancho Magalona and Tita Duran. It wasn't until her fifth movie, "Ramon Selga," which starred Lilian Leonardo and Pancho Magalona that she got a speaking part as a nurse.

From bit parts to screen star: "Life's like that. You never know what's going to happen to you."

The following year, she was in "Madame X" but Dr. Jose Vera Perez said the name Gloria Galla didn't roll off the tongue so easily. When he learned Gloria had done her first movie under director (now National Artist) Eddie Romero, Dr. Perez gave her the more *artistahin* surname.

Gloria plunged into the wholesome movies Sampaguita Pictures was known for. In addition, she was made over into the decorous well-groomed star Doc Perez prescribed for all his actors. She would have dance rehearsals most afternoons and then attend extra classes to hone her Tagalog, as she spoke *Panggalatok*. She would remain with Sampaguita Pictures for 18 years.

On her own

In 1954, she won her first acting award playing opposite Dolphy in "*Dalagang Ilocana*." It would take another 34 years before she would get her second best actress trophy for the movie "*Saan Nagtatago ang Pag-ibig*," which was directed by her "I Wanna Be Happy" co-star Eddie Garcia. Since then, she has received the best actress award from Gawad Urian for "*Tanging Yaman*" in 2001 and was named best supporting actress for "Magnifico."

When the studio system began disintegrating in the late '60s, Gloria recalls actually crying when she was left on her own. After all, she was cocooned in the Sampaguita way of life for 18 straight years. It was her family. "It was like being in a new school and leaving all your old friends behind," she says. She has managed her own career ever since, sans agents or handlers.

Although she made 30 movies with screen partner Luis Gonzales in dramas or romantic comedies, it was actor Juancho Gutierrez she took a shine on. "Well, he was handsome, he studied in Letran but he didn't finish because he became an *artista*, and I liked him. We became friends," she recalled of her choice. He was her first boyfriend and they were married at Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park at the height of her career in 1960. In fact, she was the first actor to have her nuptials filmed and shown as a "special added attraction" to the movie "*Sumpaan Natin*."

The *sumpaan* lasted for 12 years and produced a daughter, Maritess, now a chef. What led to the separation? "*Siguro* it could've been my career, I was very busy with it." A lot busier than him? "Yeah, I never stopped. And so many other things but that is the past and I don't want to talk about it anymore. In spite of the fact that we were separated, we never became enemies; we were always friends especially when it came to our daughter Maritess."

Unaffected bond

She says there was no third party involved and chalks up the separation to "life's like that, you never know what's going to happen to you in the future."

The separation, she says, did not affect the bond between her daughter and Juancho. They often went out together to watch movies and engage in "*kalokohan*." In fact, it was a distressed Maritess who called her mother on the location shoot of the TV show "Labs Ko si Babes" when Juancho suffered a stroke in 2000.

With half of his body paralyzed, Gloria and Maritess decided to bring the 67-year-old Juancho back to their home in New Manila to care for him. He had been suffering from diabetes prior to his attack and lived with his sister in Mandaluyong.

"The only proper thing to do, the Christian way was to help him. I would have regretted it all my life if I didn't help him."

Juancho died in 2005 from multiple organ failure but Gloria is grateful "God gave him a good five years."

So did his estranged family. "*Naku*, Juancho loved to eat. His appetite surprised me." Of course, he was on a strict sugar-free diet but she agreed that eating was one of Juancho's joys.

PDI FILE

Lola Gloria dotes on grandson Christopher

Although he had difficulty speaking and reverted to child-like cantankerousness when no one could understand what he was saying, Juancho remained fully aware of the household's comings and goings. "He would say, 'why, do you have a taping?' He knew! I'd say, 'Yes, I'll be home late. What do you want to eat, I'll buy it for you.' He'd answer, 'Get me some sugarless cookies,' whatever it was that he wanted to eat." Juancho would also know when she'd come in from a long day's work and tell her to get some rest.

Maritess' son, Christopher Balbin, now 14, was chummy with *lolo* as well. He'd pass by his grandpa's room and ask him if he had a good night's sleep. He'd show Juancho the good grades he'd get on his test papers and then end the day with, "*Lolo*, I love you. Sleep *na*." They were gestures that brought tears to Juancho's eye.

Even now, Gloria recounts, Christopher would remember to visit the ossuary of St. Carmel's Church in New Manila where Juancho's urn lay. "*Sige na lola*, go to the car, I'll visit *lolo* first," he'd tell Gloria. The family plans to mark Juancho's birthday on July 19, with a Mass.

Juancho had seizures in the end. "He spent a long time in the hospital," Gloria recalls. When I saw him in the ICU, he had about eight tubes coming out of him. I couldn't look. I just prayed, '*Kayo na po ang bahala*' (God, it's up to You)."

The simple life

Still, Gloria is grateful Juancho had the opportunity to make peace with his Maker, to prepare for the inevitable.

These days, she lives the simple life, she says. Never having learned how to cook, a fact she reveals shyly, she compensates by cultivating a *suki* in the wet market who will alert her to the day's fresh catch in the hope that her chef daughter might work her magic so that "*masarap ang ulam namin* (so we'd have a nice meal)."

Like all *lolas*, she dotes on her grandson, a first year high school student at La Salle Greenhills who does occasional appearances on the Sunday variety show "ASAP." Her daughter, estranged as well, works for Pagcor.

Gloria, born in the States, never gave up her American citizenship. Perhaps for the perks, but largely because it was the only legacy, the "*tanging yaman*" as it were, of her mother who lived a short, sad life.

Now, with a new movie and career that remains solid, her own promises to be as bright as ever. ◘

In Dumaguete, by the boulevard

for the National Workshop Fellows and Panelists 2006

I could sit, contemplating indefinitely
the smell of fresh brine and moss
seeping through warm fingertips,
blank pages; the skin of my sole.
Sea water rises, turning into droplets
that rest gently on my shoulders.

This is noontide:
the clarity of sunlight on waves
self encompassed by the sea.

Here, I learned how not to fear the rains.

Michelle Sarile

At the Ballet Rehearsal

where metaphor
where speculation

where the girls at the ballet rehearsal
knee-locked and stiff-armed up into
the bright ceiling of the studio
want to be perfect

want to be lifted up
light as no-body even if
they are all body now:
torso and thigh

and smile and their arms arched
like *how do you call it*

Denouement falling into place
and falling slowly
and everything else suddenly
inevitable and better.

Lawrence Lacambra Ypil

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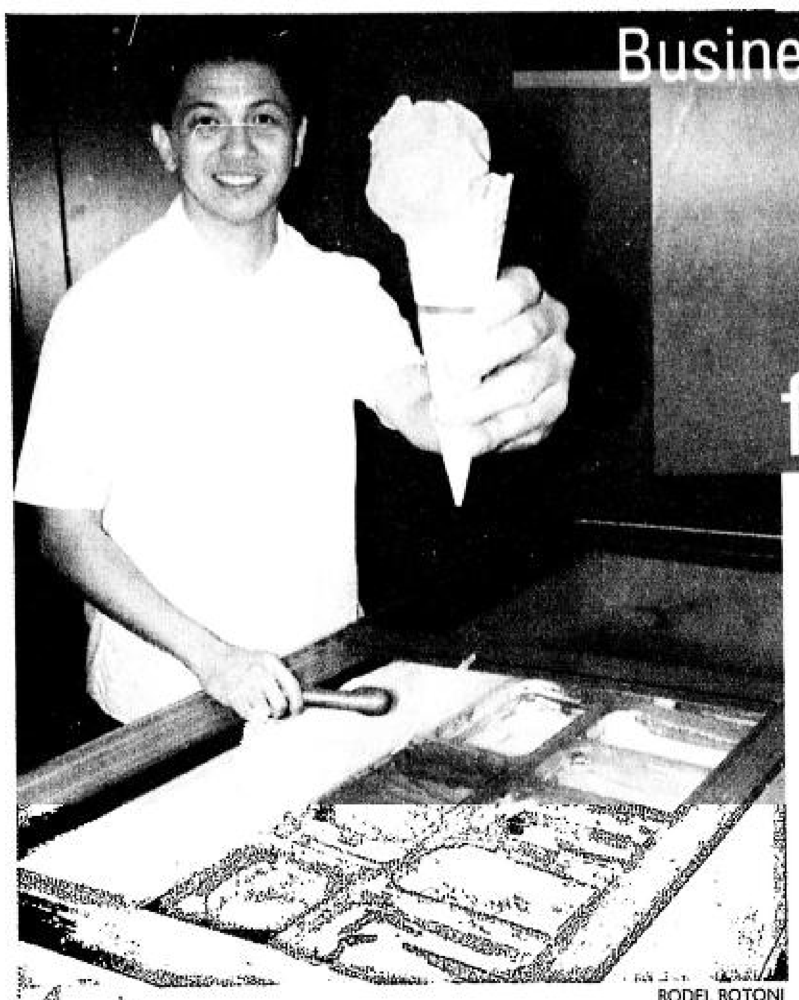
by Joy Rojas

It's life's dessert for this franchising pro



RODEL ROTONI

SEVERAL years ago, at a Science and Technology Creamery course in Pennsylvania State University in the United States, students were asked to come up with their own ice cream at the end of the two-year program. The students, about 80 of the most experienced ice cream makers from all over the world, promptly went to work, mixing their original concoctions in the school's laboratory, one of the oldest ice cream facilities in the US.

The next day, they presented their sweet treats in containers identified only by numbers. Upon taste-testing, the group declared the entry from Haagen Dazs the best, while the ice cream from a representative of Dreyer's was chosen second. The third favorite? Mango ice cream from the Philippines.

Stunned, the group, turned to its maker, a boyish, slight-framed *tsinito* who shot up from his seat in surprise. "I said to myself, 'I killed them with my mango, I killed them!'" he gleefully recalls today. "But all they kept asking was, 'Why? Who are you?'"

Winning them over

He's Ricardo "Richie" Cuna, president and CEO of Milkin Corporation, the exclusive manufacturer and distributor of Fiorgelato Ice Cream. Cuna, who keeps abreast of ice cream- and gelato-making developments by regularly attending short courses in the US, (he's actually studied in ice cream universities in North Carolina and New York!) admitted that all he wanted to do in Penn State then was get the program over with: heavy in math, which he didn't like, the course also required him to read books the size of the Yellow Pages. "And let's face it, *probinsiyano ako* (I'm a country bumpkin) next to these Americans," he says. "I didn't get their slang and jokes."

Still, with the way he won them over with his mango ice cream, it's clear that he understood their discriminating palates. "That's when I realized how important school was," he says. "It really helps."

What should amaze Cuna's Penn State classmates even more, however, is the fact that his resume, albeit a rich and colorful one, is actually more corporate than it is culinary.

A banker by profession, Cuna boasts 20 years of banking experience, first with the Bank of the Philippine Islands in the '80s, and then Export and Industry Bank from the mid-'90s to 2000. His forte is business development—in all aspects. At Export and Industry Bank, he was asked to build it "from the first nail," says Cuna. "*Ang hilig ko* (my strong point) is starting from scratch. From zero, that's where your imagination comes in."

Which is exactly what he did when he established Maynila Ice Cream, an ice cream company he put up sometime in the midst of his Export and Industry Banking days. Cuna, an avowed ice cream lover, purchased homemade (or what we refer to as "dirty") ice cream machines, and in true mad-scientist style, churned out as many as 20 flavors in a little shack on the backyard of his family's Paco, Manila, home. For a small operation, Maynila did pretty well, supplying restaurants, hotels, and other places within the factory's vicinity.

Tasting success

And Cuna thought he had already tasted success. Two years later, he answered the ad "Ice Cream Company For Sale" in the papers. As it turned out, the company was Fiorgelato, an Italian ice cream brand which Cuna happened to enjoy: Pistachio and Chocolate were the flavors he'd buy from the brand's two outlets. "The minute I found out it was Fiorgelato, I said, 'Yes!' Lets' talk business because I want the brand.'"

Gelato, Cuna explains, isn't ice cream, but rather "a higher degree of ice cream." Made with milk (whereas ice cream is made with cream), gelato is denser and creamier, and contains less fat, sugar and air. Italians actually regard it as a meal: a cone or small cup

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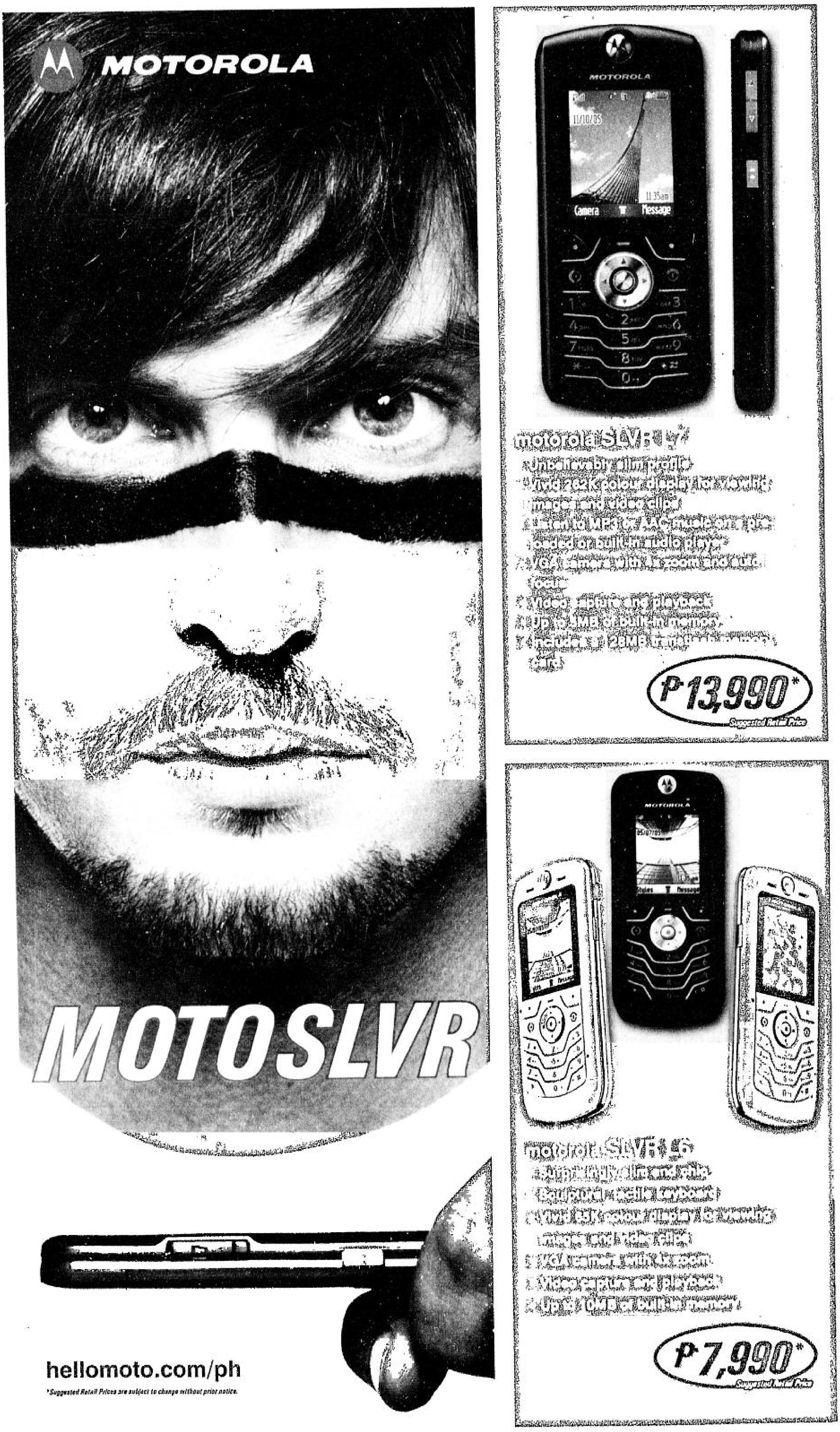
A banker and businessman by profession but an ice cream lover at heart, Richie Cuna enjoys a taste of both worlds as head of the Association of Filipino Franchisers, Inc., and exclusive distributor of Fiorgelato Italian ice cream



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By Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

Physician healing herself by Healing Others

AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

As a member of Doctors Without Borders, daughter of Ninotchka Rosca gives medical care to people in the midst of war and calamities. It's one way of making up for a scarred childhood that haunts her still

SHE had wanted to become a writer, but had feared living in the shadow of her famous mother: controversial novelist Ninotchka Rosca and her partner, political columnist Luis Teodoro, who raised her. Her biological father, Rolly Peña, was a staunch oppositionist to then President Marcos and had to go underground. She would not meet him until she was 16, after the Marcoses were ousted.

But Sibyl Jade Peña did her elders one better: instead of just writing interesting stories, she ended up living them.

Peña is a member of Medicines Sans Frontieres (MSF), or Doctors Without Borders, an international agency that provides health services to those who have no access to medical care whether because of war, disaster or discrimination.

To date, Peña has seen action in Burma, Kashmir, Chad, Aceh, Liberia and Ethiopia, where she has often been assigned to take care of the nutrition and psychosocial needs of refugees in war-torn areas.

Childhood dream

"MSF medics provide basic health care, including management of severely malnourished children, reproductive health, health education, vaccination and outbreak control. The team also travels with engineers, nurses and administrative people who work with the local staff. Other humanitarian agencies provide food and non-food items like water buckets, blankets and cooking utensils," explains this medical graduate from the Pamantasan ng Lunsod ng Maynila who also holds an MA in Public Health from the University of Maastricht in the Netherlands.

Healthy option: Setting up a weighing scale in front of an MSF clinic in Liberia

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Becoming a medic has been a childhood dream since she had gotten hold of Sen. Juan Flavier's book, "Doctor to the Barrios," says Peña. Later, while working in a local NGO, she met a Swedish doctor who had worked with MSF in Afghanistan. "He fired up my imagination with tales of riding on a donkey and hiding from the Russian planes while attending the sick. I decided that this was what I want to do. It was different, it was an adventure!"

In 1995, Peña traveled to Europe, got married and settled there. In 1999, she applied as an MSF volunteer and was assigned to Burma where the team treated people afflicted with a resistant malaria strain. In Kashmir, India, the MSF team set up psychosocial services to help people deal with the trauma of a 10-year conflict where at least 40,000 had died.

Her most difficult assignment, Peña recalls, was in Liberia which was then under the murderous regime of Charles Taylor. (Taylor is currently being tried by the International Court of Justice in The Hague).

"There was constant shooting in the capital of Monrovia and the house-office we were to occupy had been looted five times," she narrates. "Roaming militia would break into homes and ask, long sleeves or short sleeves? If you answered long sleeves, they cut off your limb from the wrist. Short sleeves meant they hack off your forearm. People were so scared they'd eat scrubs and weeds and raw food to avoid cooking and giving themselves away through the smoke."

Basic precautions

MSF members take basic precautions. "We had no arms, but we had a curfew, we avoided certain areas and we were in constant touch with our headquarters in Amsterdam which provided us technical support."

She was in charge of the feeding program in Liberia and Peña recalls breaking down every week "because despite everything we did, the kids died. *Namamatayan kami ng bata* every week."

Fortunately, psychosocial debriefing sessions always caught them before depression took hold. "We had an excellent support system. Basically, they tell us 'you did your best.' "

Easily the most memorable was Peña's assignment in Chad, where the MSF team took charge of two evacuation camps for Darfur refugees fleeing the militia backed by the Sudan government. She had to take a crash course in French for this contract, she reveals.

At an average 45 degrees, Chad was so hot and dry that she remembers wetting her *malong* and using it as a blanket so she could sleep at night. She had to get up several times at night to keep the *malong* wet because it would dry up in no time.

The refugees' faith made a deep impression as well, writes Peña in an earlier story on Chad. "After their houses have been burned, their sons brutally killed, their daughters raped and abused repeatedly, their water wells contaminated with dead animals, they accept it as Allah's will. It leaves me thinking how I would react if it had happened to my family. Would I be as forgiving?"

Hardest hit

She also realized how women are always the hardest hit in times of conflict. "Women bear the brunt of keeping the family alive," she recounts in her Chad story. "They gather firewood, look for food for their children and the animals they've brought along, they bring the sick to the clinic. Yet it is the men who make the decisions for the family, who have to be sought out for something as basic as whether a seriously ill child should be brought to a hospital some 50 kilometers away."

But why should women fetch the firewood from the desert when this is clearly a risky and difficult job? Explains Peña: "In an interview, a male refugee said that the men would be killed when found by the enemy, while the women would only be raped."

That reasoning still disgusts her.

It was in Aceh that Peña met two other Filipino MSF members. "We don't have enough information on MSF so not enough Pinoys apply for the job despite their recruitment office in Hong Kong," she observes.

Although there are more Africans in the staff because of the proximity of MSF's operations to Africa, the group is diversifying and have enlisted more Asians and Latinos lately, says Peña.

"That's why tolerance and flexibility are important if you're part of MSF," she adds. "Remember, you have to share the house with five to 20 other members. So we try to understand each other's culture and adjust accordingly. For instance, Europeans are happy with a light lunch while some of us prefer a full meal. Others are very confrontational, while some fare better in non direct communication, and so on." And that's why she always brings along *toyo* (soy sauce), laughs Peña. "I find the food very bland so I have my emergency provisions."

Distant shores

Despite the often heart-wrenching scenes that greet the MSF team and the fact that being assigned to distant shores has proven hard on her marriage, Peña says she stays because of the work that has to be done. "The health system in most countries we're assigned to has collapsed because of war or disaster and they need us badly. It makes me realize that no matter our politics in the Philippines, we're still lucky because our health infrastructure are relatively intact."

Besides, she adds, there are also rewards, "Sometimes it's as intangible but as priceless as a child who smiles at you because he's feeling better, or women telling you that they've taken control of their lives again."

Having no control of her life at one time is easily Peña's biggest regret. "I wish I had grown up experiencing how it was to have a real family," she states wistfully. She was left behind, she says, when her mother had to leave posthaste for the United States.

In a 2004 interview with SIM, Rosca said she fled to the US in 1977 after being tipped off that the Marcos government was going to file charges against her in a military tribunal.

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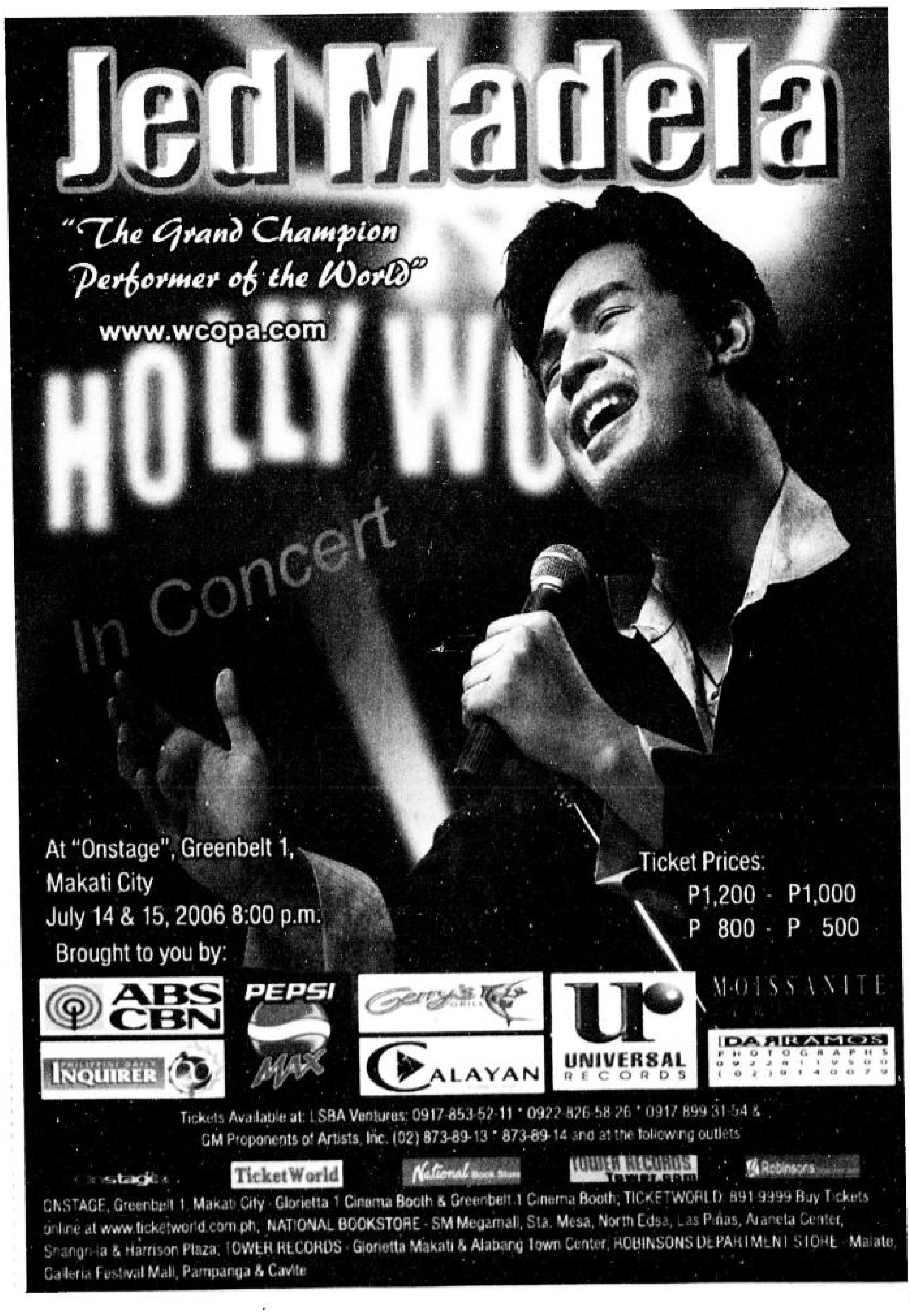
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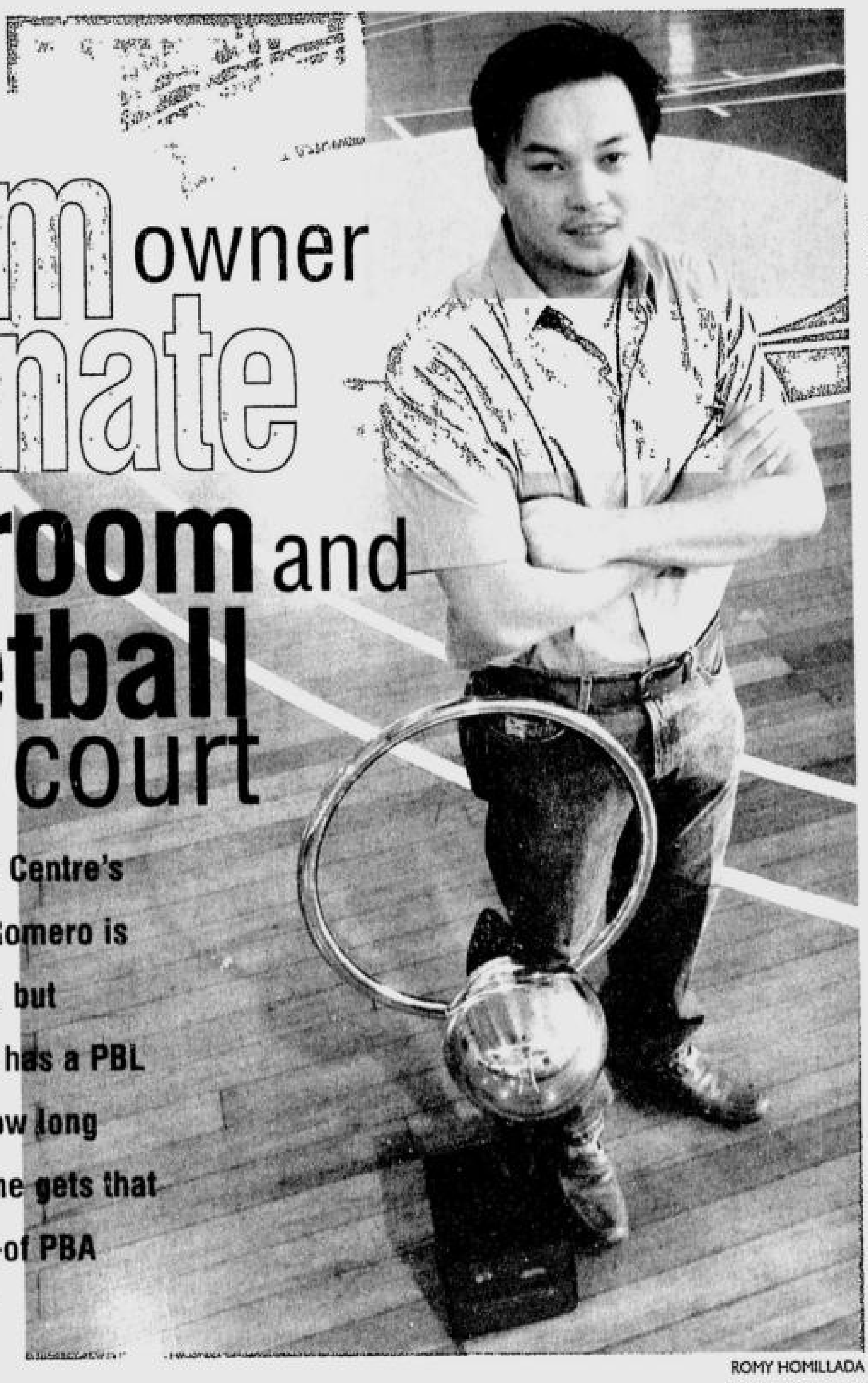
All in the Game

by Jasmine W. Payo

Young team owner is passionate in the boardroom and on the basketball court



Harbour Centre's Mikee Romero is only 35, but already has a PBL title. How long before he gets that dreamt-of PBA crown?

ROMY HOMILLADA

ADMITTEDLY, it took some time before Harbour Centre chief executive officer Michael "Mikee" Romero warmed up to the idea of going to work.

Basketball, after all, has been his lifetime devotion. From a very young age, Romero already trained his sights on the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA).

"Since I was a kid, my father has encouraged us to play sports. When I was in high school, I was a varsity member in at least three sports. We were very sports-minded," says Romero. "But I really love basketball. I joined different leagues, from the midgets to the junior and senior levels, and even inter-barangays. And if you start playing young, of course you're looking at the PBA. That was my mentality."

Up until high school, Romero's game plan seemed on track. He showed the knack for running the show on the floor. So after suiting up as the starting point guard of the La Salle Zobel junior basketball team, Romero crossed over to De La Salle University to play in the seniors division of the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP).

Inopportune time

But like an ill-timed foul call, injury hit Romero at the most inopportune time.

"I was a sophomore and I was already lined up for Team A. Unfortunately, I twisted my ankle just before the season started. I wasn't able to play," he recalls.

Although willing to earn back his slot in the squad, Romero again bid his teammates goodbye even before a new season kicked off. This time, he contracted hepatitis.

"I was devastated after that," admits Romero. "*Nanghinayang ako.* I was gone for about two years. So when I lost the opportunity to play, I shifted my focus. I just concentrated on my studies."

Romero tried to be a more diligent student. "I used to go to class for 10 minutes, then I'd leave. I'd only bring a paper and a pen," he shares, laughing.

But like most athletes, Romero knows well that reward comes from hard work. In 1992, he graduated with a management degree from La Salle. Five years later, he also completed his MBA at the Asian Institute of Management.

"I was so focused. I just put all my energy into it," he says.

Although scoring high exam marks turned out to be his new goal, Romero confesses he missed seeing his numbers on the stat sheet.

"Before, there was an element of frustration. For many years, I didn't watch the UAAP games. *Masakit talaga ang loob ko.* When I saw Jason Webb (playing for La Salle)—he was younger than me in high school—I thought I should also be playing just like him," he says.

Even more hurtful, Romero started seeing his junior contemporaries move up to the pro league.

"I couldn't even watch the PBA. The players I was competing against in high school were all there—Johnny Abarrientos, Marlou Aquino, EJ Feihl," he enumerates.

Important event

After nearly a decade, Romero gradually shed off his coldness on local cage wars.

"Around 2000, I started watching basketball again," he says. "But an important event was when I played for the Ateneo-La Salle All Stars last year. I was able to take the frustration off my chest. It was a big relief."

Apparently, hoop play remained easy for the former junior standout. Romero finished among the top scorers as the Green Archers crushed their perennial rival in the invitational tournament.

Around that time, the family-owned Harbour Centre, a billion-peso port terminal in Manila, also decided to venture in the Philippine Basketball League (PBL).

"Initially, it wasn't among the company's plans to form a team. The first thing you think about—it's too expensive. We never considered it. But when we started joining small leagues, we had an idea to try it out in the PBL," he says.

Yet the no-nonsense CEO turned out to be an unflappable team owner as well.

Romero can be so passionate on the sidelines, that some have likened him to the youthful, but mercurial Dallas Mavericks team owner Mark Cuban in the National Basketball Association (NBA).

"I'm just very passionate in everything I do," he states. And that attitude clearly rubbed off on the entire squad as Harbour Centre bagged its first PBL championship crown last June after only three conferences in the league.

"During the (finals) series versus Toyota Otis and (the semifinal series) versus Montaña, I talked to the team every game. I went to their dugout, I went to their practices. Everyday I had to motivate them," he says.

So while his young squad planned winning tactics on the hardcourt, Romero also plotted his own motivational strategies.

"In the first game (of the finals), we lost and I got angry with my players," he says. "I told them that this is the championship, they shouldn't be contented just because we reached the finals. I told them to elevate their game, and good thing they responded. But even when the team won in Game 2, I ignored them. I went to their practice and just said congratulations."

Like a keen business strategist, Romero calculated his moves throughout the best-of-five championship series.

"It really depends on the situation, I motivated the team in different ways," he says. "In the third game, we lost but the team played well. I knew they were expecting that I'll get mad at them. But I treated them to dinner and congratulated them. I told them to get the fourth and fifth game, I still believe in them."

But even more impressive, Harbour Centre's title run was powered by collegiate players from the country's two fiercest rival universities—Ateneo and La Salle.

Star-studded squad

Romero says it wasn't easy managing a star-studded squad bannered by Blue Eagles star LA Tenorio and Green Archers hotshot Joseph Yeo.

"Many were impressed that we were able to combine Ateneo and La Salle, but what people don't know was that it took some time before they mixed up. There was a Tenorio clique and a Yeo clique," Romero points out.

"It was a learning experience for me," he adds. "Before, I thought if you have a strong team, it's easy to win a championship. But you have to force them to work together, give them a common goal."

Romero's aggressiveness and enthusiasm on the hardcourt also translated in the boardroom.

Taking over as Harbour Centre CEO in 2002, the boyish-looking Romero quickly turned the company around.

"We had the business for a few years, but at that time it wasn't profitable," he notes. "At that time, sales was about P50 million, now it's almost a billion. From a two to three percent market share, we're 90 percent of the market right now."

Although there was the typical impression that he's just another spoiled "COO" (child of owner), Romero stresses he planned everything well.

"I was just unorthodox, from marketing to getting good people. It's also important to have close rela-

To page 7

The Associate Missionaries of the Assumption (AMA) celebrates its 20th year of volunteer service in the Philippines.

AMA

BECAUSE WE LOVE, WE SERVE

The AMA Volunteer Program is a non-profit program designed for college graduates and young professionals who wish to devote one year of volunteer service in schools and parishes all over the country. AMA brings together young men and women from diverse backgrounds, both from within the Philippines and foreign countries to share in a common desire to serve as teachers, campus ministers, guidance counselors, and parish workers. The program provides its volunteers with knowledge and skills necessary for their assigned work in their communities. The volunteers undergo formation and training in a year-long journey of self-knowledge, service and spiritual growth. The AVP also has an alumni community in which graduates of the volunteer program share in a common mission- to build God's kingdom wherever they find themselves.

To date, AMA has sent over 300 young volunteers who have helped:

- Over 5,800 households and families
- Over 15,000 grade school, high school and college students
- Hundreds of street children, children with special needs, as well as youth in drug rehabilitation programs
- Various parishes and schools all over the Philippines
- Over 50 organizations and communities including the following:

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Calling all AMA Alumni!

- We are celebrating our 20th General Assembly on August 25-27, 2006 at St. Martin School, Crystal Cave, Baguio City. Looking forward to seeing you all soon! Kit-anay ta tanan!
- There will be a concert and foodfest in August 5 "Volunterismo:Panawagan sa Kabataan" at the Provincial Capitol Grounds, Iloilo City. Tickets are available at 50 pesos each. (In partnership with the Disaster Management Community of Reconciliation Group or DMCG)

If you are interested in becoming an AMA volunteer, or if you would like to support the AVP, please call Gamay Solis at AMA Philippines Foundation, Inc. at Assumption College, San Lorenzo Village, Makati City. Telephone 817-07-57. Email ama_phils@yahoo.com. Website: www. ama.org.phv

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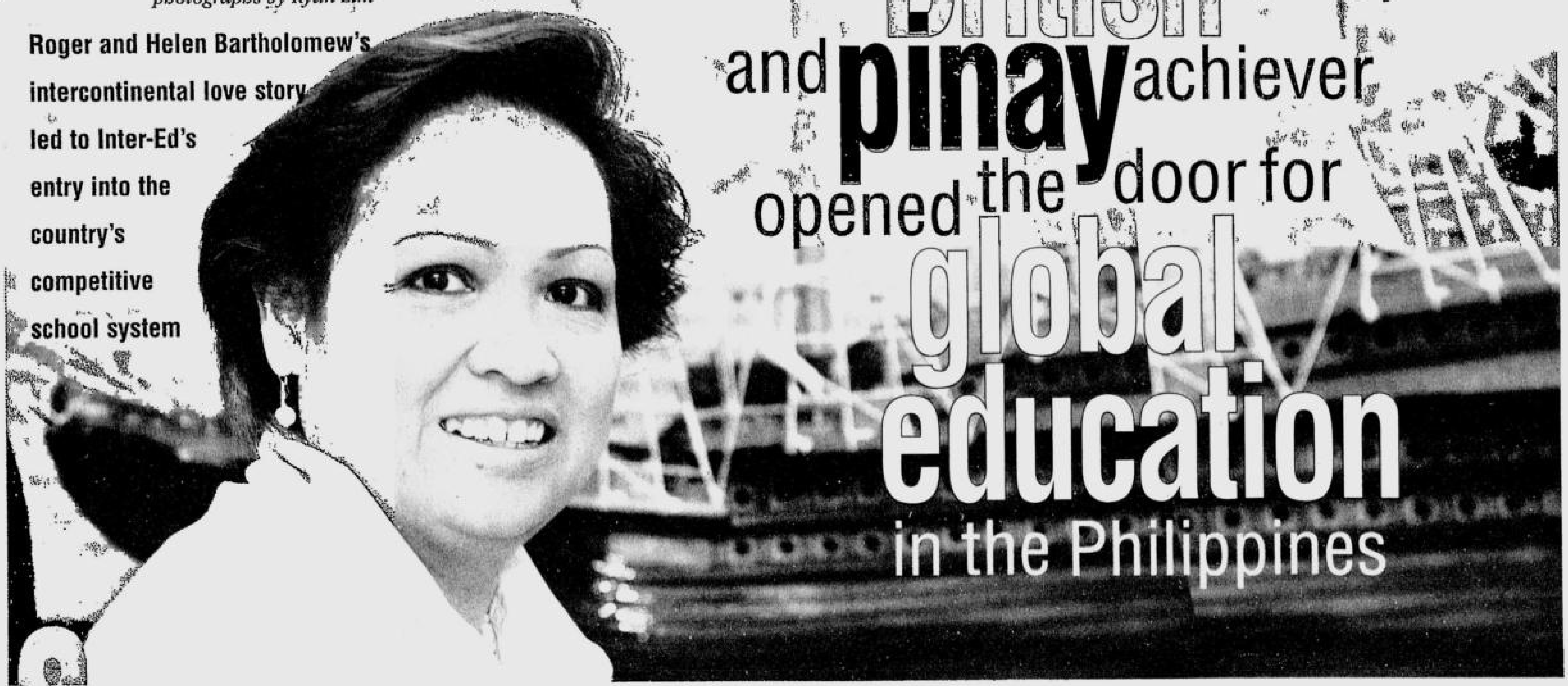
Couples at Work

This British lit major and pinay achiever opened the door for global education in the Philippines

by Cora Llamas
photographs by Ryan Lim

Roger and Helen Bartholomew's intercontinental love story led to Inter-Ed's entry into the country's competitive school system



SHE walked to public school as a child and finished in a high school that was "*tabi-tabi dyan sa Pasay* (just so-so)." Her family was so poor that her more compassionate classmates literally chipped in to make sure that she got her diploma in medical secretariat.

On the other side of the world, high unemployment rates in Britain caused by Margaret Thatcher's economic transformation drove Roger Bartholomew, a magna cum laude Literature graduate to get a job in Papua New Guinea.

Somewhere along the way, Helen Umali and Bartholomew met in Manila, fell in love in an 11-day whirlwind courtship, and together became founder and president respectively of International Education Specialists (Inter-Ed). The couple has sent 3,500 Filipino students to study in the universities of US, Europe, Canada (just to name a few) the past 25 years.

It's not just a matter of handing out glossy brochures to affluent parents who can pay the two-to-four year courses that cost thousands of dollars. Through written exams and counseling sessions, the couple takes time to guide both parents and prospective students in selecting the right course that will best reflect their talents, inclinations, preferences, and temperament.

Says Roger: "We need to get it right from the beginning. Spending $25,000 a year studying overseas will be an expensive mistake if you end up taking the wrong course in the wrong school in the wrong country—and you can't achieve what you wanted to do."

Clear directions

This process branches off into career counseling sessions with professionals. Helen recently sat down with a surgeon who wanted to take up nursing to get a job in the US. "He eventually realized that he was a doctor, that he didn't want to spend his life wiping [other people's butts]. We help [these people] refine their own crafts and make their directions clearer."

Learning for the Bartholomews themselves never stops either. Roger has done four to five major jobs and re-skilled himself in three particular specialist areas in the last nine years. "You have to learn all the time while you're working because the ground moves."

The young Helen certainly had a passion for learning, absorbing all that she could from the school of hard knocks. As a child, she and her siblings sold *merienda* to day laborers during summer. Decades later, she junked her first job as medical secretary and worked her way up from stenographer to events organizer in another company. One perk she liked was the free entry to the seminars of international speakers and the first peek at their manuals which she herself prepared. Later, working with a conglomerate of hotels and travel agencies opened up to her "a new world of management and organizational skills."

It was only a matter of time before someone spotted her talent and mentored her. An American associate who was representing and promoting foreign universities to potential students in other countries like the Philippines asked for a mere 30 minutes that would change her life. Helen recalls the American telling her, "I will pass on my experience to you for half an hour. You will sit there and [learn to] interview the students. Your job will be to fill up the [slots of courses] in different universities and colleges."

Trust and respect

Looking back, she believes that this act of trust was borne out of respect. "He said that I had the potential, that I would not jump into bed immediately with a foreigner." The mere thought was infuriating to Helen who, a few years later, would lash out at a British consul who denied the then 26-year-old a visa. He could not believe that the girl casually dressed in jeans and white shirt was a hardened businesswoman. She snapped back, "I dare you, if you think I'm doing this to marry one of your Britons!"

The visa was finally approved, but the joke was on Helen. Two months later, she would meet the British man from Devonshire that she was to marry.

By then, Inter-Ed had been set up. In its first year, the office space was totally rent-free, courtesy of a friend. With no phone in place, Helen had to take and make calls at the nearby *sari-sari* store. Her telex machine was donated by the firm next door that had just shut down. With no money for advertising, it was word of mouth that sent students to her door. The first batch she sent to a university in Switzerland "were children of the Who's Who in the country," Helen says.

Though overseas living was attractive to Filipinos even at that time in the late '70s, the United Kingdom didn't exactly look like the promised land to Roger. "It was very cold, there was lots of snow. The toilets were frozen. The unemployment rates in my village were running at 45 percent. I would apply for a job and 700 people were also applying for it. I'd be one of the three [applicants] short-listed but the job [would be] given to someone else. It was very, very hard—it was a depressing way of living."

Overqualified

Too overqualified to be accepted for menial labor, Roger eventually called up his sister who had found work as an agriculturist in Papua New Guinea, "Find me a job and get me out of this damn country!" The nearest position that would open—the marketing manager—belonged to her boss who was about to return to Australia.

In-between renewing his working visa some time later, Roger opted to spend his vacation in the Philippines instead of New Zealand. As fate would have it, a mutual friend (who would later become their best man) asked Helen to take care of his transportation and other needs. Their meeting wasn't exactly love at first sight. Helen was dating another man and she found the then long-haired Roger "too rugged." When the three blind dates she arranged for him didn't work out, she eventually ended up asking him to join her and her friends in a weekend in Batangas.

Something clicked in those couple of nights spent in long conversations. She was impressed by his quick mind, clean living, and honest spirit. "Roger was a good boy, a conservative church person. I was the loud one," Helen jokes. The decision to marry—after knowing each other only for 11 days—happened that weekend. Their friends were aghast and predicted doom for the rushed romance. But he never stopped calling and writing her once he returned to Papua New Guinea. When his contract was finished, Roger returned to Helen, a wedding, and life in the Philippines.

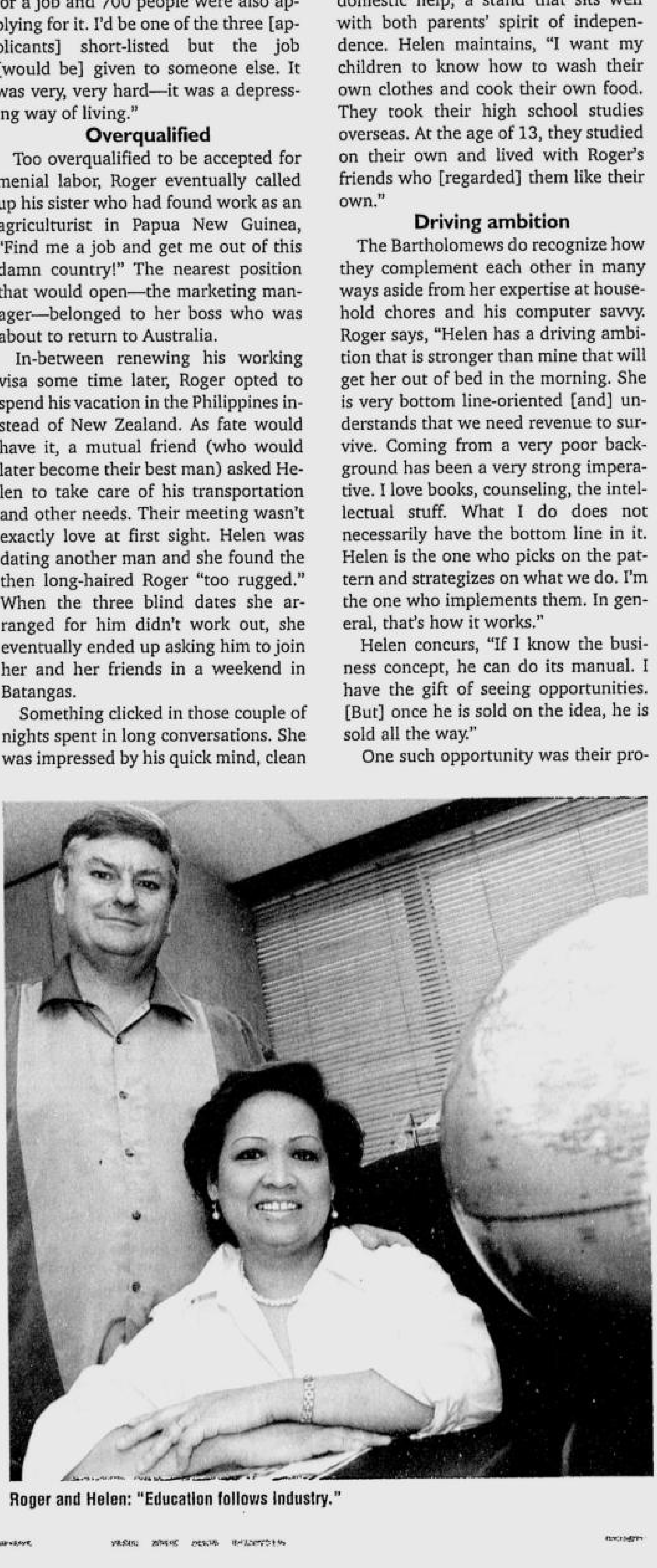
The couple have four children but no domestic help, a stand that sits well with both parents' spirit of independence. Helen maintains, "I want my children to know how to wash their own clothes and cook their own food. They took their high school studies overseas. At the age of 13, they studied on their own and lived with Roger's friends who [regarded] them like their own."

Driving ambition

The Bartholomews do recognize how they complement each other in many ways aside from her expertise at household chores and his computer savvy. Roger says, "Helen has a driving ambition that is stronger than mine that will get her out of bed in the morning. She is very bottom line-oriented [and] understands that we need revenue to survive. Coming from a very poor background has been a very strong imperative. I love books, counseling, the intellectual stuff. What I do does not necessarily have the bottom line in it. Helen is the one who picks on the pattern and strategizes on what we do. I'm the one who implements them. In general, that's how it works."

Helen concurs, "If I know the business concept, he can do its manual. I have the gift of seeing opportunities. [But] once he is sold on the idea, he is sold all the way."

One such opportunity was their proposal to the owner of Southville International School, back in 1997, to open a college. Its buildings were erected in less than a year without them resorting to loans. Roger teaches International Baccalaureate subjects in English Literature and History in Southville, and Corporate Planning and Strategy at the college. Inter-Ed provides the new colleges with linkages to international universities.



Roger and Helen: "Education follows industry."

It's a relationship that is fast becoming a necessity. "Globalization is a reality," Roger states. "If we don't come to terms with it, we die—and that's in terms of employment and education."

He paints a picture of how the developed countries have created a synergy between the two sectors that is producing excellent students and productive, gifted, knowledgeable members of the workforce. "In the Philippines, education follows industry. In the top universities overseas, innovation happens at the university and is then picked up by industry. In general, you got experts on their field teaching." For example, in Warrick, one of England's top business universities, a professor teaching in an MBA course in the summer must "build a minimum of £250,000 worth of consultancies. They must also be extremely successful practitioners. They can use the graduate students for their research and the university facilities to help them with that. Otherwise, if they don't build a certain amount of business, they don't teach the next year."

Common pattern

Bartholomew sighs the next second, "I hate to say this but in many of the universities here, [professors] fail in their subjects professionally and go into teaching. Like failed admen teaching advertising and all that. Fortunately, the top universities are getting better and better selection. But it's a fairly common pattern."

Passion for education and the students who enroll in it have prompted the Bartholomews to go the extra mile in some cases. One pupil had a lot of red marks on his college transcript; his father had all but given up on him, leaving an aunt to do all the work. The Bartholomews counseled the boy, asked certain international universities to give him a chance by putting him on probation, and then went back to the kid and told him to shape up.

"To our surprise, this student graduated magna cum laude," Helen says, smiling at the memory. "The father was so happy and the aunt sent us gallons of ice cream."

In the end, the achievement of every child becomes the ultimate source of their fulfillment. Helen admits, "Our crowning glory is when our students succeed. To see how this student is now the vice president of this bank or telecom company, and [knowing] we were part of their career planning."

Roger seconds, "Our students bring their children, telling us what they've done, what they've achieved. I like it when they come back to us not as our students but as our equals." Q

For more info about Inter-Ed, call 819-1001/02, 810-2825, 811-8377 and 0917 203-2821.

It's life's dessert
...from page3

is good enough as a snack, while a bowl makes for a hearty meal. Since Cuna purchased the company, he expanded Fiorgelato's flavors to include 72, among them, classic Italian variants like Cioccolato and Tiramisu, and local concoctions like Ube, Macapuno, and yes, Mango.

As for branches, Fiorgelato grew from its modest two to 50 nationwide-40 of them the result of a joint venture or franchise. Though it may seem contrary to his forte of setting up businesses from scratch, Cuna, president of the Association of Filipino Franchisers, Inc., (AFFI) certainly sees the value of cashing in on a known institution. In "Franchise Fever," AFFI's 5th Filipino franchise trade fair ongoing till July 9 at SM Megamall's Megatrade Hall 2, participants include over 60 establishments—27 of them new members and many non-members eager to test the franchise waters.

"There's nothing wrong with creating your own business. In fact, all of us started that way. But if you just want to get into business, franchise is the way to go," says Cuna, who has also encouraged schools, salons, gas stations and other non-food yet highly-franchisable businesses to join the fold. "It's already got a system and brand recall, and with very little money, you can already run a business." Of course, having given talks on franchising and how to set up a business before, Cuna, will be the first to tell you that it takes more than a generous capital and prime location to thrive. "A good franchisee is someone who is hands on, and has the passion of an entrepreneur," he declares, "the heart of running a business."

Business and banking run in the blood of Cuna, son of Bangko Sentral's Bert Cuna, and grandson of Jose Zamora, whose Golden Taxi was the premiere taxi company of its time. In grade school, Cuna remembers joining his *lolo* Jose as he made his rounds, inspecting his fleet of cabs in the taxi's sprawling compound in Manila. "He was the guy with the Midas touch," says Cuna admiringly.

But Cuna, who also paints, sculpts and plays music, was exposed to creativity as well. His mother Pacita is an artist, as is his older brother Rachy. Richie, who as a child shared a room with Rachy, recalls sleeping next to burial jars and skeletons, artifacts which astounded his older sibling even then. "That's why I always sleep with the sheets over me," he says with a chuckle.

Today, Cuna sees himself and Rachy in his two young sons. While 13-year-old Patrick has the makings of a future Floral Architect of the Philippines ("Raching-rachy," assures his pop), it is 10-year-old Simon who takes after Richie's simple and quiet demeanor.

Running and basketball keep this insatiable ice cream eater enviably trim despite the fact that he, sigh, eats ice cream every single day. Cuna, who tastes every tub of Fiorgelato that his plant produces daily, can only shrug and smile. "It's my life," he says.

Physician
...from page 4

"Mom was never there," shrugs Peña. In fact, she adds, her mother has hardly communicated with the family. Her last personal encounter with her was ten years back. "I'd only hear about her from other people," she says of Rosca who has won awards for her novels "State of War" and "Twice Blessed." The famous US-based author was in town two years back for the launch of her book, "Jose Maria Sison: At Home in the World," a biography of the National Democratic Front leader now based in Utrecht, the Netherlands.

With her biological father stranded in China and her mother in the US, Peña grew up under the care of her mother's second partner, Luis Teodoro whom she calls Dad or Louie. "I owe Louie a lot," she says. "We have a very good relationship. Dad's been very supportive of everything I do."

Her maternal grandmother, a former schoolteacher, also helped out. "She was very education-oriented, so it was largely thanks to her that I got to school. One day she looked at me and realized it was about time I got enrolled. I had reached school age."

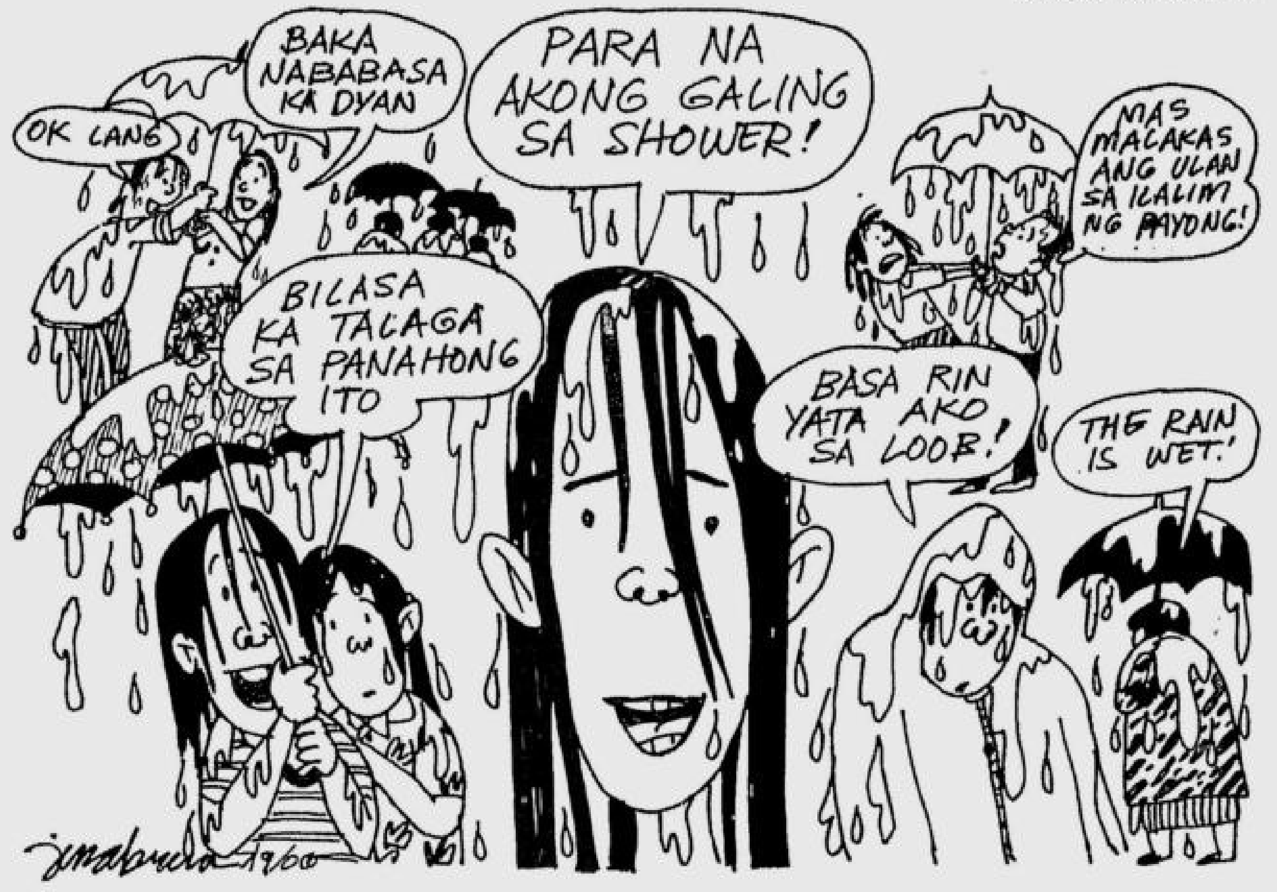
It was probably such memories of a desolate childhood that has kept her wary of having children, says Peña with a shaky laugh. But well, she adds, she has to credit her parents too for giving her a thirst for social justice that in turn led her to MSF.

Peña's in town for a brief break "to avoid burnout," she says, but she isn't sure yet if she's settling back anytime soon. "I'd like to take things one day at a time," muses this medic who probably heals others as a way of healing herself.

Pinoy Ngal!

by Jess Abrera

Wet Season


OK LANG
BAKA NABABASA KA DYAN
PARA NA AKONG GALING SA SHOWER!
MAS MALAKAS ANG ULAN SA ILALIM NG PAYONG!
BILASA KA TALAGA SA PANAHONG ITO
BASA RIN YATA AKO SA LOOB!
THE RAIN IS WET!

SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

		8	1					
		3	7					
6	5				2	1		
1	8				7	4		
		6	9				2	3
		5	3				6	9
					6	3		
					8	7		

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 7/09

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Answer to previous puzzle

4	2	1	7	3	5	9	6	8
9	8	6	2	1	4	5	7	3
7	3	5	9	8	6	4	2	1
8	7	4	1	6	2	3	5	9
6	1	3	4	5	9	2	8	7
5	9	2	3	7	8	1	4	6
3	5	7	6	2	1	8	9	4
2	6	9	8	4	3	7	1	5
1	4	8	5	9	7	6	3	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★

Young
...from page 4

tionships with our clients and a strong financial backing. You just have to be determined," he states.

At 35, Romero understands it's indeed quite difficult to win everyone over.

"When you're young, unintentionally, there are people you step on. But you cannot crush me. I'll still be aggressive. I'm not afraid of failure. Never. I always think I'm young, I can fail, so I can still rise again," he says.

And as if to deflect any more questions on his worthiness, Romero reveals that he once worked abroad on his own and recently completed his doctorate in management with high distinctions at the International Academy of Management and Economics.

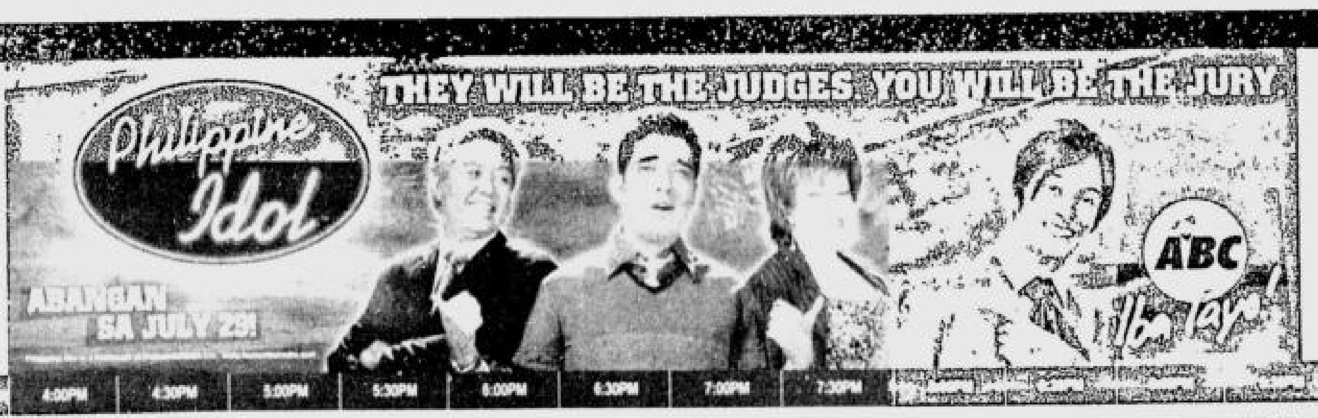
"From 2000 to 2002, I was in Singapore. It was a dot com (venture). I was successful even without my parents backing me up," he says.

But Romero maintains his life isn't all business and basketball. For 14 years, he's also been raising four kids with his equally youthful wife, Sheila.

"I try to spend as much time as possible with my family. Every summer, we spend time together in another country," he says. "But aside from being with my family, I really enjoy being both in sports and business. Each has its level of satisfaction. Each has its level of demands. But of course, there's more to it. I've learned to appreciate life better."

INQUIRER TV GUIDE

Sunday, July 9, 2006



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ABC 5	[illegible] PBA
ABS-CBN 2	Your Song SCQ Kids The Buzz Goin Bulilit Rated K TV Patrol World Sharon U Can Dance Trip Na Trip
AXN	The 6th Day Samsung Sports World Worlds Apart Fear Factor (Season V) Ripley's Believe It or Not CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 6) CSI: NY (Season 2) CSI: Miami (Season II)
Cartoon Network	Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi The Road Runner Show Tom & Jerry Show Pet Alien/Planet Sketch/Camp Lazlo/Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy/Cow & Chicken/Pet Alien/Camp Lazlo The Simpsons/Robotboy Megas XLR Courage The Cowardly Dog The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy The Simpsons The Batman Power Rangers Dino Thunder Gundam Seed Aqua Teen Hunger Force/Sealab 2021
Cinemax	The Prosecutors (2:45 PM) The Kiss (4:15 PM) Father's Day (5:50 PM) Running Against Time (7:25 PM) The Last Samurai Blood & Concrete: A Love Story
CNN	World News World News World Sport Larry King Live World News World Sport World News World News World Sport Talk Asia World News The Daily Show With Jon Stewart Late Edition Live
Crime/Suspense	I, Detective Crime Scene Academy Law & Order Law & Order Criminal Content Law & Order Special Victims Unit What Should You Do? Cold Case Law & Order Criminal Content Surface/Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice
Disney Channel	Lizzie McGuire/Art Attack/Billy & Buddy Totally Spies! Double Episodes Phil Of The Future Brandy & Mr. Whiskers Lilo & Stitch Martin Mystery Buzz on Maggie Phil Of The Future/Emperor's New School The Suite Life Of Zack & Cody That's So Raven Wonderful World Of Disney High School Musical [illegible] Mr. Bean/America's Funniest Home Videos Kim Possible Martin Mystery Wonderful World Of Disney
ESPN	Pool: Snooker Premier Snooker League '04 England UCA Nat'l Super Varsity Cold Cheerleading U.S. Senior Open Golf C'ship 3rd Rd. Germany Tonight Major League Baseball Saturday Pro Billiards [illegible] Challenge of Champions Finals
ETC	Saturday Night Live Joan Of Arcadia 2 American Dreams One Tree Hill 3 America's Next Top Model 4 Queer Eye For The Straight Guy Project Runway Nip/Tuck 3 Rated Oh! Insider Weekend
ETC 2nd Avenue	Blowout 2 Today Show - 1 Hour Version Dateline Cold Turkey NBC Nightly News WSJR The Biggest Loser The Director West Wing NBC Nightly News Hollywood One On One
EWTN	Defending Life Chaplet Of Mercy/Angelus The Donut Man Adventures In Odyssey Rosary With Mother Angelica Octavia Dias Rome Reports EWTN Global [illegible] Onward Pilgrims Images of Mary Sunday Mass Live The World Over Encore Life Is Worth Living The Abundant Life
Fox News	Fox News Watch Fox Report Saturday Heartland With John Kasich Big Story Weekend Edition Beltway Boys Fox News Watch Fox & Friends Sunday Fox News Live
GMA 7	Gigsters Love To Love S-Files Mahiwagang Baul Kakabaka-boo Mel & Joey All Star K Daddy Di Do Du Sunday Night Box Office
Hallmark Channel	Gentle Ben: Black Gold [illegible] (5:15 PM) Just Cause Child Of Our Time (7:35 PM) Audrey's Rain A Time To Remember
HBO	Real Women Have Curves Friday Night Lights Honey Now On The Big Screen In July Patch Adams The Forgotten
Hero TV	Machine Robo Rescue Dear Boys GPX Cyber Formula Baki The Grappler Zenki Super Yoyo Ragnarok Musumet The Slayers Barom One Babel II Mars The Terminator Hero TV Theatrix Dragons Fire & Ice Machine Robo Rescue Dear Boys Zenki Baki The Grappler
IBC 13	Ang [illegible] Hanap Buhay EZ Shop Home Shopping Network Home Shopping Network Legacy Of Hero Pinoy Action Hits Iyo Ang [illegible] EL SHADDAI
Jack TV	Everybody Hates Chris Arrested Development American Dad Family Guy Jack Yard Afterburn Smackdown Jack In The Box Dr. Katz Weekends W/D Comedy Central Presents Premium Blend
Lifestyle Network	Smart Solutions Country Style Your Private Island Fine Living Special Barefoot Contessa Everyday Italian Wolfgang Puck Food Network Special E! Special [illegible] Love Story: John & Ruby E! Special Celebrity [illegible] Geek To Chic 13 Conversations About One Thing Fashion Trance
MTV Philippines	Homecoming Laguna Beach Pimp My Ride Punk'D
MYX	Pinoy MYX Countdown Take 5 MYX Bandarito MYX News Star MYX OPM MYX Pop MYX MYX Presents MYX Hit Chart MYX Backtrax MYX LOG
National Geographic	The True Face of Hurricanes Explorations Powered By Duracell Rough Trades Miracle In The Pacific Tornado, Tornado Intercept Explorations Powered By Duracell Rough Trades Mega Asia: Hong Kong Best of the Week: [illegible] Nat Geo Investigates: [illegible] Nat Geo Investigates: Reign of Terror
NBN	Tinging Bayan (Siling Gising) Tinging Bayan (Live) Congress In Action The Working President Kabataan News Network The Sports List Pilipinas Ngayon Na! Special Events [illegible]
Nickelodeon	Drake & Josh/Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron Zoey 101 Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide Just For Kicks Catscratch Avatar: Legend Of Aang Danny Phantom/Kid's Choice Awards Trollz SpongeBob SquarePants Just For Kicks Zoey 101 Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide Dark Oracle Girls In Love The Amanda Show The Brothers Garcia The Fairly OddParents My Dad The Rock Star
PBO	[illegible] Radyo Twogether Fight Night 2
Qtv	Lois And Clark Galaxy Angels Bongga Ka Star Ang Pinaka Pop Star Kids May Trabaho Ka Sunday Super Sine Groupee TV
RPN 9	Golf Power Fistorama Sure Hits WWE Smackdown JAG Navy NCIS Without A Trace Sunday's Big Event The Working President
SBN 21	Buhay Pinoy Shepherd's Voice New Life Oras Ng Himala [illegible] Gabay At Aksyon
Solar Sports	Boxing Greatest Classics Beach Volleyball [illegible] Men's Shanghai WNBA Action NBA Jam WNBA '06 [illegible] Los Angeles Sparks Sunday Sportsfest [illegible]
Sports Plus	Motoring Today Nopi Tunervision 4 FIFA World Cup [illegible] [illegible]
Star Movies	Braveheart The Parent Trap (6:50 PM) Shall We Dance (Movie) Love Actually
Star World	Scrubs/The Office (US Version) Arrested Development [illegible] Business Week Asia Travel Asia The Apprentice Road Trip Oprah Prime Time Sports Illustrated [illegible] Parkinson Hollywood Shootout Oprah Prime Time
Studio 23	PBL Unity Cup Game 2 Exposed Y Speak Live US Girls Desperate Housewives [illegible] [illegible] Angel

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Globe's subs maximize 3G Video IDD use

THE INCREASING POPULARITY OF third generation technology or 3G has spawned the use of one of its most exciting features - video IDD or international video calling, where callers not only talk to but also get to see each other during the call across countries.

This particular feature allows a seaman, for example, to greet his girlfriend based in Manila on her birthday virtually "in person" as soon as he docks in Malaysia. Nanay, living in Cebu, can easily show Tatay, working as an automotive technician in Taiwan, the medal their son received for taking top honors in class via video IDD. Also, Kuya-while at a shoe store in Lucky Plaza, Singapore-can show his younger sister through the screen of her 3G phone the different kinds of shoes she can choose from for Christmas.

Now, as Globe strengthens its innovation leadership in per second-charging from 2G to 3G services, video IDD is now easier on the wallet. Until July 29, Globe's video IDD originating from the Philippines will be charged only US$0.0067 per second (still equivalent to US$0.40 per minute video IDD), the same rate as a regular voice IDD call.

Globe makes it more convenient and affordable to share memories through richer connections with loved ones abroad, as it continues to lead the pack in 3G international coverage to cover 27 countries with 39 partner operators worldwide.

Two-way video IDD is available in the following countries with 3G subscribers of the corresponding partner providers: Bridge Mobile Alliance members Singtel Singapore and Maxis Malaysia, as well as Hutchison 3G and One Austria, Belgacom Belgium, Era Poland, SFR France, Telenor Sweden, Swisscom and Orange Switzerland, M1 Singapore, Fareastone and Vibo Taiwan, Elisa Finland, T-Mobile Hungary, Vox Mobile Luxembourg, and VIPNet Croatia.

Meanwhile, Globe 3G subscribers can initiate outgoing video IDD to 3G subscribers in the following countries of these partner operators: Bridge Mobile Alliance members CSL Hong Kong, Taiwan Mobile and Optus Australia, as well as others such as Vodafone Australia, H3G and O2 UK, Eplus and Vodafone Germany, Vodafone and Cosmote Greece, Vodafone Ireland, Telenor Norway, Amena Spain, KPN Netherlands, Hutchison Hong Kong, Chunghwa Taiwan, Vodafone Japan, SK Telecom South Korea, and Orange and T-Mobile Slovak. With Globe's per-second video IDD rate of only US$.0067, it will be very economical and easy for Tita, who just gave birth in Makati, to introduce personally her baby girl to her cousins working in Germany, on the screen of a 3G phones.

"We're really making it easy for our prepaid and postpaid subscribers to maximize Globe's video IDD," shared Patricio "Blums" Pineda III, head for wireless business planning, and head for Globe mobile broadband 3G. "We anticipated the demand for the service when we launched 3G with HSDPA, especially among those who had loved ones and business associates out of the country. This is our way of making their connections, whether for personal or business pursuits, richer and more substantial. Their wish is our command -- we continue to upgrade our network and launch services to best serve our subscribers' needs."

Indeed, Globe's commitment to its subscribers really ensures that they enjoy quality 3G with HSDPA technology at affordable rates to the most countries in the world, ultimately to give them more valuable quality time with their loved ones abroad, a second at a time.

From the Philippines, all Globe prepaid and postpaid subscribers' SIMs are already ready to do 3G services, so with this pre-activated 3G SIM, one would just need a 3G phone configured in dual mode and to be within in a 3G-covered area to pick-up 3G signal. They can already video IDD loved ones abroad who also have 3G-activated SIM cards from his telco operator, 3G phones and are also within 3G coverage in their country.

For more details regarding Globe's per-second Video IDD offer, all Globe prepaid and postpaid subscribers need do is text VIDEO IDD to 2929 at no cost to them.

INTEL CONCLUDES FIRST INTERNET CAFÉ SUMMIT

Intel Microelectronics Philippines, in cooperation with PC Express, recently concluded the country's first-ever Intel Internet Café Business Solutions Summit at the Megatrade Hall 3 of SM Megamall.

Designed to drive the development of the Internet Café (iCafé) industry, the admission-free three-day event offered new ideas, technology updates and business solutions for iCafé owners and operators to gain insights for establishing iCafés or for expanding their existing ones. Intel is committed to educating the iCafé sector and to raising their owners' levels of entrepreneurial skills and technology proficiency. Through the Intel Internet Café Business Solutions Summit, Intel provided free seminars on increasing business productivity and competitiveness using IT to over 7,000 iCafés across the country.

"Internet Cafés play an important role in bringing the Internet to the Filipino masses," says Ricky Banaag, Country Manager for Intel Microelectronics Philippines. "Intel understands that they also play a big role in not just providing facilities for PC and Internet-based entertainment, but also in providing tools for enhancing productivity and learning. As such, we at Intel have committed ourselves to working with the iCafé industry, technology leaders and business experts to enable the growth of local iCafés through technology education that aim to increase their competitiveness."

The Philippines currently has about 7.8 million Internet users, 70 percent of whom access the Internet through pre-paid cards at iCafés.

Undersecretary for Regional Operations Group (ROG) of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Carrisa Cruz, a guest of honor at the event, agrees that faster Internet speeds and more powerful computers have become indispensable in daily life.

"The information revolution has brought forth opportunities for faster business and economic movement," says Cruz. "However, key to the efficiency brought about by this IT innovation is the availability of modern equipment and access to the Internet. Shared access to the Internet is a practical solution to develop a wider pool of competitive knowledge workers, and this is made possible by the growing Internet Cafe industry in the country."

Internet Café industry leaders also participated in this event, including hardware and software vendors, peripherals and accessories companies, gaming service providers, and office equipment manufacturers. Information seminars and presentations from various field experts, workshops on multimedia applications, online gaming tournaments, entertainment, raffle draws and exclusive price offers were offered throughout the entire event.

"This initiative is in line with our Digital ASEAN (D-ASEAN) strategy, which is the blueprint outlined by Intel in digitally integrating and increasing the competitiveness of the South East Asian countries by making the South East Asian region technologically integrated to become more competitive in the global marketplace," added Mr. Banaag.

Intel works with governments, educators, telecom suppliers and businesses to develop a stronger digital workforce, to integrate technology into education, to make technology more accessible for all citizens through shared access facilities, to encourage SMEs to adopt technology to increase productivity, and to engage governments to become more electronically enabled.

Intel, the world leader in silicon innovation, develops technologies, products, and initiatives to continually advance how people work and live. Additional information about Intel is available at www.intel.com/pressroom.

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1.Mr. Raymond Remoquillo, South East Asia Telecoms Manager, INTEL 2.Mr. Sunil Kaimal, Regional Marketing Manager, Business Client Marketing, INTEL 3.Mr. Carlo Rufino, DME-Mobius 4.Mr. Steve Tsao, CEO, E-Games 5. Ms. Sharon Tanyag, SEAGATE 6. Ashish Poddar, Desktop Marketing Program Manager, Branding and Promotions Marketing Group, Asia Pacific, INTEL 7. The Business Center Model offers free internet access, international VOIP calls and large format printing where your business name can be printed as a poster signage.

8

9

10

11

12

13

8. From L-R : Jesse Tan (PC Express VP for Operations and Marketing), guest of honor DTI Undersecretary Carissa Cruz and Ricky Banaag (Intel Microelectronics Philippines Country Manager) 9. Ms. Sheila Paul, LEVEL UP GAMES 10. Ms. Carmina Apostol, Globe Telecom 11. Mr. Apol Bionglay, Sales Director, NETGAMES 12. From L-R: Director Nick Abad of DTI Region 6, DTI Undersecretary Carissa Cruz, Ricky Banaag (Intel Microelectronics Philippines Country Manager), Jesse Tan (PC Express VP for Operations and Marketing) and Sharon Khohayting-Jabanes (Intel Microelectronics Philippines Channel Account Manager). 13. At the Multimedia Model where free video editing workshops were given. The Multimedia area also offers free photo shoot with photo printing while workshops on music mixing can be availed at the Sound Booth. Participants to the workshops can bring home their work in special CD's and DVD's.

14. Gamers cheering a horrible online death

15. Gamers getting the ultimate experience in the arena

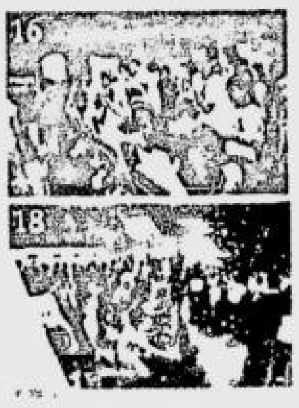
16. Gamers enjoying the event

17. The Multimedia arena featuring a photo station courtesy of Chroma

18. Gamers and gaming fans participate in the various tournaments

14

15

16 

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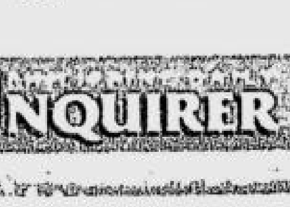
18 

DY&R-Alcantara grand reunion

ALCANTARA

SEVERO C. ALcantara, more familiarly known as SCA or "Mr. Sev" in the advertising industry, and the former chair and chairman emeritus of Dentsu Young & Rubicam Alcantara, will reach a very important milestone on July 20, - his 80th birthday.

To celebrate this auspicious occasion and to pay tribute to Alcantara, former employees of of DYR-Alcantara, which started as Grant Advertising and climbed to the top advertising agency list during Alcantara's presidency, have banded together to hold a grand reunion. All former employees of what also used to be known as Bates Alcantara Philippines and HDM Alcantara are enjoined to attend and honor their former chair. In 1992 as he tried to slow down on his activities in the industry, Alcantara entered politics and handily won the Vice Governorship of the province of Catanduanes. The 1995 election that followed also saw him successfully winning the Governorship of Catanduanes.

The birthday celebration of Alcantara and the grand reunion of former employees - from 1948 to 2004 - of Dentsu, Young and Rubicam-Alcantara (now Y&R Philippines) will be held on Sunday, July 16th, at the Britanny Bay Central Park in Sucat Parañaque. For additional information or to confirm attendance, interested parties may call any of the following:

Josie Angeles - tel. 724-3287; Sol Platon - tels. 889-8095, 884-8060; Lily Pasimio - tel. 826-0953; Baby Alcantara - tel. 801-0443; Grace Chong - tels. 801-4504, 801-3167; Yoly Reyes-Manalad - tel. 884-8060 to 65; Tina Denauto - tel. 810-3861.

'Naked Art' at Eastwood City, Libis

'NAKED ART' IS AN ART EXHIBIT with female bodies as surface canvass. This Sept. 9, 7:30 p.m., at the Central Plaza of Eastwood City, Libis, ten professional models will walk the ramp to showcase the artistry of the most sought after muralist, Alfred Galvez. Body painting will be seen in a new light; more intricate, structured but dynamic and playful. Inspirations will be derived from the fusion of arts, architecture, interior design and fashion, that which describe and trend and lifestyle today.

'Naked Art' is indeed one visual experience no one would like to miss. Alfred Galvez assisted by his team of talented artists, will create these ephemeral artworks in six hours and will be shown to the public via a fashion show during the night.

Alfred Galvez is a member of the World Body Painting Association in Seeboden Austria (www.wpba.info). His works are also recognized by the Festival Italiano di Bodypainting (www.bodypainting.it). He is a muralist and faux finish artist by profession.